

SOUTH COUNTY

Experience

Continued from A1

evening, the mood quickly went from cautiously optimistic to glum as results filtered back and the crowd of about 50 learned Hagan McEntee had won. Trager and his supporters had hoped the three registered Democrats would split the vote, affording him the win. With 80 mail ballots uncounted, Trager admitted defeat in a speech to his supporters, who included Rhode Island Republican Party Chairman Brandon Bell, Rep. Doreen Costa (R-Dist. 31) of North Kingstown and Exeter, Rep. Blake Filippi (I-Dist. 36) of Charlestown, Block Island and parts of South Kingstown and Westerly, and Narragansett Town Councilors Christopher Wilkens and Patrick Murray.

“We ran a clean campaign,” Trager told his supporters. “I have nothing but positive things to say about what we did. This is a very liberal section of the state, a very liberal state. I feel bad, not for myself, but for everyone who participated.”

“I want to thank Bob for putting his hat in the ring – the courage it takes to run for a seat held by a Democrat for 25-27 years – the reign of terror goes back 70 years in this state,” Bell said. “It was an incredible campaign.”

On Tuesday, McKnight canceled his plans to celebrate at Pancho O’Malley’s in Narragansett and stayed home. In an interview Wednesday, he praised his campaign staffers and family, noting he was “proud of the work they put in,” but ultimately, the votes didn’t go his way.

“I thought we ran a good campaign with the resources we had and the time frame running up to election day,” he said. “We just didn’t get enough voter support to win. No excuses, but it just didn’t go our way.”

McKnight, a Narragansett resident and first-time candidate who works in sales, said the experience of meeting voters was a positive one, and allowed him to reconnect with residents.

“It was good to reconnect with some people I hadn’t been in contact with in a



PHOTO: LIZ BOARDMAN

House District 33 Republican candidate Bob Trager discusses the results of the special election with Narragansett Town Councilor Patrick Murray Tuesday night. Trager lost to Democrat Carol Hagan McEntee.

while,” he said. “I saw some familiar faces on the campaign trail I hadn’t seen in some time.”

McKnight wouldn’t rule out another run for elected office, but said he didn’t have immediate plans.

“It was kind of what I expected it to be, in terms of the race itself, so I don’t think there were any big surprises there,” he said. “As far as in the future, I’m going to digest this for a while and make a decision down the road.”

Candas, of Peace Dale, also a first-time candidate, spent the evening at a friend’s home in Wakefield. She is active in organizations such as the Wakefield Rotary Club and the South Kingstown/Narragansett League of Women Voters. “I was unsuccessful in my run for District 33, but I ran a very clear and ethical campaign,” Candas said in an interview. “I stuck to the issues of the campaign. I would like to thank all the wonderful people who supported me.”

Last minute attack ad

On Monday, some households in District 33 received an anonymous mailer that included photos of a swastika, men waving the Confederate flag, a birther, and a man holding a sign that reads, “Impeach the Muslim Marxist.” The mailer alleged Trager is “bought and paid for by right wing extremists” and would “push their radical, right wing ideas on our towns and our state.”

It was sent anonymously, with no return address, as is required by state law, though last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled anonymous fliers

are considered free speech.

Bell, on behalf of the RIGOP, quickly released a statement condemning the mailer.

“This is undoubtedly the most scurrilous, lewd, vicious and false undertaking by any group or individual in an attempt to sway the outcome of an election in Rhode Island in modern memory,” Bell said in the statement. “These tactics can only be expected by political insiders when they feel threatened.”

He said the party planned to ask the state Board of Elections to investigate and “audit the various individuals and organizations who have an interest in this election and would be desperate enough to smear a respected Republican candidate.”

Campaign finance complaints are confidential.

Tuesday morning, Hagan McEntee denied any part in the mailer. “I had nothing to do with this,” she said. “I do not condone any organization that would do this. I respect Bob Trager, I just disagree with him on the issues.”

Former House District 35 Republican candidate James Haldeman has offered a \$1,000 reward to any person or group who exposes the source of the mailer.

Another special election to come

According to South Kingstown Canvassing Authority Clerk Dale Holberton, a special election will be held to fill Hagan McEntee’s seat on the Town Council. Depending on who declares candidacy, Holberton said there could be a primary election in August and an election in September, at the earliest.

House District 33

Unofficial totals – does not include 80 mail ballots

*Carol Hagan McEntee (D) 877
Bob Trager (R) 789
Jamie McKnight (I) 273
C. Elizabeth Candas (I) 232

South Kingstown Public Safety Building (Precinct 3201)

Trager 95
Hagan McEntee 81
McKnight 9
Candas 8

South Kingstown Senior Center (Precinct 3202)

Hagan McEntee 183
Trager 125
Candas 52
McKnight 17

South Road School (Precinct 3203)

Hagan McEntee 160
Trager 153
Candas 117
McKnight 7

Narragansett Town Hall (Precinct 2001)

Trager 34
Hagan McEntee 31
McKnight 14
Candas 2

Narragansett Community Center (Precinct 2002)

Hagan McEntee 211
Trager 173
McKnight 103
Candas 38

St. Veronica’s Chapel (Precinct 2003)

Hagan McEntee 221
Trager 209
McKnight 117
Candas 15

DaCruz said he was likely to run. Diorio does not plan to do so. Tuesday night, Trager said it was too soon to think about that possibility. Former South Kingstown Town Councilor James O’Neill said he was “strongly considering” a run. He was defeated in the November election.

Managing Editor Liz Boardman contributed to this story.

NARRAGANSETT

Narragansett approves \$54.5 million budget

By Stephen Greenwell Jr.
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Narragansett Town Council quickly passed a \$54.45 million budget for fiscal year 2015-16, with no further comment from councilors, town staff or citizens.

The budget increased approximately \$2.3 million over the current year, largely related to funding pension and other post-employment benefits costs, and bonded capital projects like the Narragansett Community Athletic Complex and the Public Safety Building.

At a first reading June 1, citizens lined the Town Hall Assembly Room, and spoke against Councilor Raymond Ranaldi’s plan to transfer \$922,000 from the school

district’s municipal funding to the town fund balance. Ranaldi withdrew the request last week and council members instead agreed to reduce school funding by \$466,000 and reduce the tax rate accordingly, rather than collecting the money and sending it to the fund balance.

With that decision and a few other smaller budget cuts, the tax rate for residential properties is expected to be \$9.94 per \$1,000 of assessed value, down from \$10.04 per \$1,000 of assessed value this year. Because of higher property valuations town-wide, tax levy collections are expected to increase about 2.85 percent.

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Opposition continues to mixed-use zoning

By Stephen Greenwell Jr.
Staff Writer

At Monday’s comprehensive plan work session, there was continued opposition to adding a mixed-use designation for parts of Boon Street and Narragansett Avenue, but a Planning Board member argued it would give the town more control over growth.

According to the town’s online property database, the properties on Boon Street between Congdon and Rodman streets are zoned business. The stretch includes businesses like Crazy Burger, Babcock’s Karate and PJ’s Pub, but there also are residential properties.

Under the current zoning, a variety of stores could replace the residential properties with minimal oversight from the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Review, or after appeal to Washington County Superior Court. Narragansett does not have a mixed-use classification. Establishing one could allow the town to limit the types of businesses or density of homes in that area, said Planning Board Member Stephen Glazer.

“The things that people are worried about might happen right now,” Glazer said, referring to businesses along the street. “What’s there now is more dangerous to you.”

As at previous meetings, Susan Cesareo, 80 Boon St. and Danbury, Connecticut, said she knocked on doors along Boon Street and Narragansett Avenue, and she couldn’t find anyone in favor of a zone change.

“I haven’t heard from a single person saying that I want more businesses on Boon Street; I want mixed-use on Boon Street,” Town Council President Matthew Mannix concurred.

Glazer and Planning Board member Vincent Indeglia said the comprehensive plan review process included considering how the town wanted to develop in the future, and create the proper areas for that development.

“Should there be an option on that gateway to the tourist section to have an opportunity in the future for a property owner to say, ‘I’d like to have another bed and breakfast there,?’” Indeglia asked, as an example regarding Narragansett Avenue.

Harry Schofield, speaking on behalf of the Narragansett Pier Residents Association, said the town had more pressing issues. “The last thing we need to do right now is to set up another zoning characteristic,” he said. “We do not favor any subdivision, any, in the Pier area.”

Schofield, who also serves

on the Ad Hoc Committee on University of Rhode Island Student Rental Problems, said there was not enough long-term planning in the comprehensive plan on rental issues.

“How many families want to put their children in a neighborhood that is infected by URI students?” he said. “There needs to be a more honest and detailed, in-depth dialogue in town.”

Councilors Christopher Wilkens and Patrick Murray were open to the mixed-use designation, citing the need to reduce regulation.

“A lot of these areas that we’re talking about mixed-use, there are businesses that are already established, and they have to go to Planning and Zoning for the simplest things,” Murray said. “It just makes it easier for the year-round business owner, one who doesn’t have the funds to go to Planning and Zoning to change the siding. We’re just trying to make it easier for the local business guy who’s already there.”

Wilkens said the section of Narragansett Avenue where he lives is residential, but has student rentals. He said mixed-use zoning could reduce congestion, perhaps allowing some two-level structures with a low-impact businesses – a doctor’s office or accountant firm – on the ground floor and apartments on the second floor.

“To get back to a very basic question, would you prefer to live across the street from a dormitory or from an accountant?” he said.

Stephen Riccitelli, 180 Boon St., accused Glazer of rolling his eyes and not paying attention to property owners as they voiced their issues with mixed-use. Glazer said those speaking were mischaracterizing the discussion.

“Right now, everything you don’t want, it has an easier path to get in,” Glazer said, referring to businesses. “You’re arguing against your own interests, which is what I’m reacting to. The word mixed-use has become like a four-letter word. It’s meant to be a protective device.”

Community Development Director Michael DeLuca said there had been five to seven Town Council meetings on the comprehensive plan, depending on whether the councilor was elected in 2012 or 2014. In addition, the Planning Board will hold two public hearings before making a recommendation to the Council, which, in turn, will hold two public hearings before approving a plan. DeLuca said that process could take until September.

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ELECTION 2015: HOUSE DISTRICT 33

Hagan McEntee led fundraising in May

By Michael Kimmerlein
Intern

In the latest reporting period, Democrat Carol Hagan McEntee led fundraising in the House District 33 race to replace Democratic Rep. Donald Lally, who resigned in March. The district represents the north end of Narragansett, Middlebridge and parts of Peace Dale.

The reporting period ran May 12 to June 1.

Hagan McEntee of Peace Dale raised \$1,300 from individuals, including \$1,000 from Richard Webb, a self-employed engineer from Wellesley, Massachusetts, and \$200 from Providence lawyer John Simonian. She received \$100 in smaller donations from

individuals and loaned her campaign \$5,000. She spent \$4,222, which included printing signs (\$967), political fliers and mailing (\$2,595) and postcards (\$659).

Republican Bob Trager, of Middlebridge, raised \$1,081 between May 12 and June 1, including \$731 from individual donors, \$250 from the North Kingstown Republican Town Committee and \$100 from Friends of Bob Lancia (R-District 16) of Cranston. Trager spent \$4,225 on his campaign, largely on signs (\$695), mailers (\$2,411) and newspaper ads (\$1,094).

Narragansett resident Jamie McKnight Jr., a registered Democrat running as an independent, raised \$685, including \$435 in individual

donations under \$100 and \$250 from the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 400 political action committee. McKnight spent \$1,879 in campaign expenses including yard signs (\$497), newspaper ads (\$890), and food for campaign meetings (\$125).

C. Elizabeth Candas of Peace Dale, also a registered Democrat running as an independent, raised \$285 from individual donors. Candas reported \$832 in campaign expenses, including newspaper advertising (\$384), a radio buy on WCRI 95.9 (\$200), gasoline for her car while campaigning (\$58), and telephone expenses (\$68).

Democrat Susan Cicilline Buonanno of Narragansett,

who lost to Hagan McEntee in the primary, also was required to file a campaign finance report. Between April 28 and June 1, she raised \$1,280 in aggregate individual donations, \$350 in larger individual donations, and \$700 from PACs, including \$500 from the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1589 and \$250 from Teamsters RI Drive PAC, based in Washington, D.C. She spent \$5,284 during the period, including a telephone survey performed by Chism Strategies of Jackson, Mississippi (\$2,000), mailers (\$985) and venue rental, and food and drink, for primary night.

The next campaign finance reports are due July 6, 28 days after the special election.

Ethics Commission will not hear Dems’ complaint

By Stephanie Turaj
Staff Writer

The Ethics Commission will not hear a complaint from the state Democratic Party against three candidates in the House District 33 race to replace Donald Lally.

Spokesman Jason Gramitt said the decision came because the commission did not seek a list of candidates nor did it notify the candidates of the requirement to file a financial disclosure. The commission has notified the candidates and asked them to file as soon as possible.

On June 3, R.I. Democratic Party Chairman Joe McNamara alleged Republican Bob Trager and independents C. Elizabeth Candas and Jamie McKnight failed to file financial disclosure statements. Democrat Carol Hagan McEntee filed the form, McNamara said.

The three candidates said they were not notified of the need to file the financial statement.

“I had no idea that I was even supposed to file something with the Ethics Commission,” Candas said in an interview. She filed the form June 4, after learning of it. “I spoke to the Ethics Commission [June 4]. They said I didn’t receive notice I was supposed to file this secondary filing, because they didn’t receive notice of my candidacy. They said that normally comes from the governor’s office.”

The financial disclosure statement is required by state law to be submitted to the Ethics Commission, and is separate from campaign finance reports filed with the state Board of Elections. According to the Ethics Commission website, certain categories of government officials, including candidates for public

office, are required to disclose sources of income and disclose whether they, or a family member, hold an interest in any business regulated by or that engages in transactions with the state government.

Hagan McEntee, who currently serves on the South Kingstown Town Council, had submitted her financial statement in that capacity, McNamara said.

“There is only one candidate who is walking the walk when it comes to Ethics Reform,” McNamara said in a statement. “Carol Hagan McEntee files her Ethics report as a town councilwoman, and she has unequivocally asserted that she supports ethics reform. It’s troubling that her three opponents have failed to file their own ethics statements as required by law.”

In an interview, McKnight said he was unaware he had to file the financial statement.

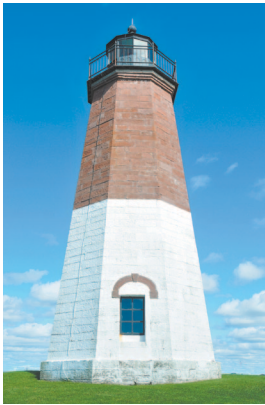
Trager echoed this, adding that he did so Thursday after McNamara released his statement.

“I did not know I had to file it,” Trager said in an interview. “I’m not trying to evade paperwork. Due to the nature of the special election, everything is very compressed. If three of us didn’t file it, that speaks for itself. We were unaware we had to file it.”

“Compliance by all candidates and elected officials with state law regarding the current Ethics Commission requirements is essential in order to get Rhode Island moving in the right direction,” Hagan McEntee said in a statement. “Now is the time to restore integrity and trust through ethics reform before more damage can be done to Rhode Island’s reputation.”

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COMMENCEMENT 2015: SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

SKHS valedictorian, salutatorian want to ‘make a difference’

By Stephanie Turaj
Staff Writer

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — Julius Sun and Joshua Beck describe themselves as “nerds.” It’s not the kind of moniker everyone would be proud to accept, but the two have no problem expressing their love for all things “nerdy” — chess team, calculus, biotechnology, and the list goes on.

Sun and Beck, the South Kingstown High School Class of 2015 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, will join their fellow classmates Monday for the South Kingstown High School Commencement ceremonies at the Ryan Center on the University of Rhode Island Kingston campus. Both head to Brown University in the fall, and while neither are certain exactly what career they want to pursue, it might involve science or math for both.

“I love all these nerdy things,” Beck said in an interview. “I’m part of the math club, the chess team, the academic decathlon, orchestra,



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

South Kingstown High School salutatorian Joshua Beck is also a U.S. Presidential Scholar.

and I’m on the swim team. I really just like doing things. It feels bad sitting around not doing stuff. You need to find something interesting and do it.”

He is the son of Jonathan Beck and Anne Kuzminsky of West Kingston.

“I’m thinking about

Difference/A4

COMMENCEMENT 2015: NARRAGANSETT HIGH SCHOOL

Top Narragansett HS students excel in and out of the classroom

By Stephen Greenwell Jr.
Staff Writer

NARRAGANSETT — During tonight’s commencement ceremony, the close-knit 112 students of the Narragansett High School Class of 2015 will be led by a Harvard-bound valedictorian who recently completed a 100-mile bike ride, and a salutatorian and certified scuba diver who is headed to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Valedictorian Eileen “Eily” Sullivan and Salutatorian Ryan Flynn have attended the town’s three schools since kindergarten, and both expressed a mixture of relief

at finishing high school and regret about venturing forth from their social circles.

“I think I’m excited to start school next year and making that transition, but it’s sentimental to look back,” Sullivan said. “It’s going to be hard to leave.”

“Having such a small school, being close to all of our classmates for 12-plus years, it’s kind of sad to think it’s all over,” Flynn said. “But I’m also getting that itch to experience what it’s like out of here.”

Sullivan is the daughter of Betsy and Jim Sullivan of

Excel/A4

COMMENCEMENT 2015: MIDDLEBRIDGE SCHOOL

Middlebridge students challenged to ‘strive in the face of adversity’

By Stephanie Turaj
Staff Writer

NARRAGANSETT — Muji Karim, speaker at Middlebridge School’s commencement ceremony June 5, asked graduates to close their eyes. When they opened their eyes again, Kari asked them to pretend they faced an incredibly challenging situation.

“Don’t just overcome adversity, learn how to strive

in the face of adversity,” said Karim, a former University of New Hampshire football star and current paralympian.

That was the theme of the ceremony for the 18 students who graduated from the private school located in historic Hazard Castle on Ocean Road in Narragansett. The school offers boarding, day and postgraduate programs to students, ages 13 to

Middlebridge/A4

ELECTION 2015: HOUSE DISTRICT 33



PHOTO: PAUL J. SPETRINI

Democratic candidate Carol Hagan McEntee receives a hug from supporter Ani Haroian at Dragon Palace restaurant in Wakefield following her victory in the House District 33 special election Tuesday night.

A vote for experience

Democrat Carol Hagan McEntee wins District 33 special election

By Stephanie Turaj
Staff Writer

The candidate with experience won Tuesday’s special election for the House District 33 seat vacated by Democratic Rep. Donald Lally in March. The district represents the north end of Narragansett, Middlebridge and parts of Peace Dale.

Democrat Carol Hagan McEntee, a seven-year veteran of South Kingstown Town Council, won the election by 88 votes — 877 to 789 — over the closest opponent, Republican Bob Trager. Registered Democrats running as independents, Jamie McKnight and C. Elizabeth Candas, finished third and fourth with 273 and 232 votes, respectively. The unofficial vote tally does not include 80 mail ballots.

“It was a tough race, but I’m the candidate with the experience and integrity to get the



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Deb Stimson of South Kingstown places her ballot in the ballot box at the Public Safety Complex during Tuesday’s special election.

job done and hit the ground running,” Hagan McEntee said during an election night party at Dragon Palace in Wakefield. “I’ve worked so

hard, I’ve walked miles [campaigning door-to-door] the past two-and-a-half months, and I got a great reception. The voters came through for

me. I want to thank the people of Narragansett and South Kingstown for the big vote of confidence. Thank you, thank you!”

Hagan McEntee bested Narragansett Town Council President Pro-Tem Susan Cicil-line Buonanno and political newcomer Jason Colonies in a Democratic primary election last month.

Hagan McEntee and her supporters packed the restaurant, cheering, hugging one another and laughing as the results came back. Among the crowd was former state Rep. Spencer Dickinson, South Kingstown Town Council Vice President Meg Healy, former South Kingstown Town Councilor Paul Donnelly, and past council candidates Bryant Da Cruz and Stephanie Diorio.

At Republican headquarters at 300 North Tuesday

Experience/A5

COMMENCEMENT 2015: THE PROUT SCHOOL

‘Life moves pretty fast’ Prout graduates told

By Michael Kimmerlein
Intern

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — “Never, ever give up.” That was the advice The Prout School’s Valedictorian Zachary Neronha had for the Class of 2015.

During the diocesan Catholic high school’s commencement ceremony Tuesday night at the Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island, it was clear the 142 graduating seniors followed that advice over the past four years — 99 percent will attend college in the fall. The sole exception was no less determined — Liam Nolan will join the South Shore Kings in the United States Premier Hockey League.

While many of the students will be going to in-state schools such as the University of Rhode Island and Providence College, others will be



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Prout senior Despina Valerie Argys, right, receives her diploma from the Rev. Robert C. Evans, auxiliary bishop of Providence, center, and Principal David J. A. Carradini Tuesday evening at the Ryan Center.

Prout/A4

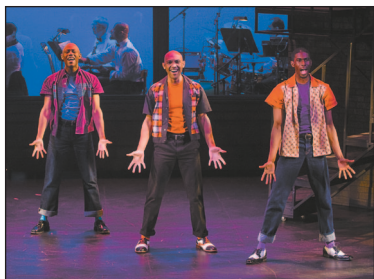
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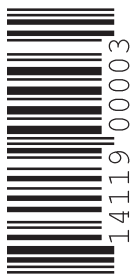
GOLD RUSH

Narragansett’s Marissa McPhillips was just one of many locals to take home first-place medals at the RIIL boys and girls state track meet. **B1**



THE STAGE IS SET

“Smokey Joe’s Cafe” opens the season at Theatre By The Sea in Matunuck. **C1**



SOUTH COUNTY

Goodbye and good luck



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Donna Madden, left, of the South Kingstown High School Parent Teacher Group, presents a cake to Principal Robert McCarthy, right, during a farewell party June 3 at the school. McCarthy is moving to Italy over the summer to become principal of an American school in Rome.

Middlebridge

Continued from A1

19, who have language-based and nonverbal disabilities. In a personalized ceremony, school teachers and staff read essays from each of the graduates, depicting their growth, struggles and favorite memories.

The essays told the stories of students who were shy at first, unsure if they would make friends or fit in, but each eventually found a close-knit group of friends. Some told of internship experiences and meaningful classes. Many said they became better learners, more organized, and better able to wake up early in the morning – with some help of staff members blowing horns, that is.

“Middlebridge has been my ‘home away from home’ for many years,” read one staff member on behalf of a graduate. “It has been a center of some of the most influential moments of my life. It is a place I feel I am always welcome, and it is a place I will always be a part of. What I value most about Middlebridge is the outstanding sense of community. We all grow together here. I saw that everyone has struggles, and they all have different obstacles and challenges to overcome.”

Karim told the graduates he is no stranger to struggle. He has dyslexia, a language-based learning disability. After a fiery car crash in 2011, he suffered fourth-degree burns on 30 percent of his body, lost both his legs and part of his left hand. Waking up in a hospital bed after a three-week-long coma, he was unable to move and not sure why he was there.

“Before that, I didn’t have a medical record,” Karim said. “By then, it was the size of a phone book, proof that obstacles and traumatic events can strike at any moment and after any experience. Everyone in here has, or will, experience

some adversity in their life – it’s not ‘if,’ it’s ‘when’ – and how you deal with that adversity will also determine your quality of life.”

Karim peppered his speech with jokes about his experience, such as how his first set of prosthetic legs were white, and he couldn’t wait to get his “black legs” back so he could “naturally be more athletic.”

“As you can see, my hand’s white; it’s not real,” he said with a smile, sending bursts of laughter through the audience.

“As my attitude changed, I noticed that positive things started to happen around me,” Karim said. “As these positive things happened, my confidence started to grow. I eliminated ‘if,’ ‘can’t,’ ‘try,’ ‘almost’ and ‘maybe,’ from my vocabulary. Just get it done, no matter how difficult.”

After the crash, he was told it would be 18 months before he would be able to use prosthetics.

“Five months later, we had a meeting in the doctor’s office and I walked in,” Karim said. “Athletics was a huge part of my life and a huge part of my identity, so you can imagine the crisis going on in my head, being this former athlete who lost his legs. I concluded if I was a good athlete before, I could be a good athlete after the accident.”

Karim has since competed in the U.S. Paralympic games, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee dedicated to athletes with physical disabilities. He heads to the U.S. Nationals in Minnesota later this month.

“A long time ago, I decided the only option I had was to stay and fight and continue to do it over and over again,” Karim said. “My advice to the graduates today would be to set the bar high. Don’t just be OK with being content. Be the best you that you could possibly be.”

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Excel

Continued from A1

Narragansett. Her sister, Mary Kate Sullivan, a NHS graduate, is a senior at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her brother, Flynn Sullivan, is an eighth-grader at the Pier School.

Flynn’s parents are Todd and Sherri Flynn of Narragansett. His sister, Jillian, is a sophomore.

While Flynn and Sullivan said they worked hard for the honor, they were both complimentary about their high school experience and classmates.

“I think the fact that we go to a really good school makes it more of an achievement,” Flynn said, adding that by their sophomore year they knew they were in the top of the class rankings. “With our classes, we’re all really smart kids and it’s very competitive. I have a lot of smart friends who are just as deserving, I think.”

“I think it’s been a great four years, and we’ve been fortunate to go to such a great school,” Sullivan said. “Getting toward the end, we’re able to look back at all that we’ve done ... I think our school is so small, you really get to know all of your classmates, so we were in a lot of the same



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Narragansett High School salutatorian Ryan Flynn, left, and valedictorian Eileen Sullivan will speak at their school’s commencement ceremony tonight.

classes.”

Sullivan was a three-sport athlete, playing tennis in the fall, indoor track in the winter and lacrosse in the spring. For her senior project, she undertook an additional athletic activity.

“I trained for a 100-mile bike ride in the spring, and I did it in May,” she said.

Her mentor was Perry Moylan of Narragansett, and they rode Cycle the Seacoast in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She raised \$975 for her 100-mile trek, and the Narragansett Cycling Team donated an additional \$1,500, with proceeds benefiting the

American Lung Association.

Sullivan also was a member of the foreign language club, the class council and the foreign language honor society. She and Flynn were both members of the National Honor Society and its Rhode Island chapter.

Flynn was on the math team and a four-year band participant, playing alto sax for the marching, pep and jazz bands. For his senior project, Flynn learned a new hobby.

“I do enjoy my hobbies outside of school. I’m really into music, I skateboard a lot, and now I’m really into scuba diving,” he said. “I just got my

Difference

Continued from A1

studying medicine,” Sun said, whose favorite classes in high school were math and biotechnology. Sun participated in the math team, chess team, academic decathlon, and serves as the class of 2015 treasurer as well as volunteering at South County Hospital. Sun also played a large role in establishing an Advanced Placement Calculus class that will be offered at the high school next year; it was an online course this year, which Sun was enrolled in.

He is the son of Gongqin Sun and Baohong Zhang of Wakefield.

During high school, Sun developed a passion for tennis. He has taught private lessons and has played on the high school tennis team all four years.

“South Kingstown won our 15th state championship this year,” he said. “As a junior, me and Adam [Waldhager] won the doubles state championship. I started tennis when I was younger, but it was the high school tennis coach who really got me into it. I like that it’s an individual sport, unless you’re playing doubles, and you’re

directly competing against someone. And it’s not just a physical sport; it’s also a mental game. There’s always that additional mental challenge.”

Sun described his high school experience as positive.

“I had a lot of friends both in my grade and in the grade above me,” he said. “They were all very encouraging. I still talk with last year’s valedictorian and salutatorian. They give me a lot of advice about classes, what to do, how to study. I wanted to be [valedictorian] from the beginning, so I’m really proud I did it. Josh and I were really, really close. We were like one grade difference. But it was never really a competition. I guess I kind of got lucky that I actually beat him out in the end.”

During his four years at SKHS, Beck discovered a love for history and political science. Advanced Placement U.S. History was one of his favorite classes, he said. He’s not a huge fan of English classes and essay writing, but that doesn’t mean he’s not good at it.

Beck was selected this year as a U.S. Presidential Scholar – under a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Each year the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, appointed by President Obama, selects scholars

based on their academic success, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service and leadership. Beck is believed to be the first South Kingstown High School student to earn this honor.

He had to write six essays as part of the scholarship application. One of his essays was about his four pet rats.

“They’re the smartest of the rodent family, so I thought they’d be kind of fun to have,” Beck said. “They’re not all I imagined, because they never sit still.”

Just like his pets, Beck never sits still. He will be working at Brown University’s Advanced Baby Imaging Lab this summer, assisting expert scientists as they use magnetic resonance imaging to take pictures of babies’ brains and study their behavior and development.

“I decided to do it because I wanted to see what being a scientist is like,” Beck said. “I want to do something significant in my life.”

Sun echoed Beck’s desire to make a difference in the world.

“If you see something that you don’t like, or you think something’s wrong, you should go try to change it,” Sun said. “I think it’s just important to be involved with whatever is happening around you.”

basic license for my senior project.”

Flynn worked with James-town’s Steve Lubas of Scuba Made Easy to earn the certification.

“He just taught me some training and I did a course online, and we did dives together in the spring, and after that I got my certification,” Flynn said.

They remain unsure about their college majors. Sullivan is interested in neuroscience, while Flynn is leaning toward web science or information technology. Looking back at her time at Narragansett High School though, and her future college experience, Sullivan said she considered the out-of-classroom experience as important as her coursework.

“Academics are very important, but like Ryan said, it’s not the only thing,” she said. “I’ve tried to be a well-rounded person, with sports and other clubs. It’s not just about getting good grades, it’s about having that high school experience you’ll also remember.”

Commencement will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Ryan Center on the University of Rhode Island Kingston campus.

narragansett@scindependent.com



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Julius Sun is this year’s valedictorian for South Kingstown High School and will speak at the school’s commencement ceremony Monday evening.

“You need to make high school into something fun,” Beck said. “You have to do it no matter what, so you might as well find something you enjoy about it. I found a good group of friends – none of that backstabbing like you see in [the movie] Mean Girls. My friends are a bunch of nerds, too.”

Commencement will be held Monday at 6 p.m. in the Ryan Center on the University of Rhode Island campus.

Prout

Continued from A1

spread across the country and the world, from the University of Alabama to Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. The Class of 2015’s other accomplishments include the highest scores on the AP U.S. History test in school history.

Throughout the ceremony, references were made to the collective future of the graduates.

Neronha compared graduation night to his class’s first day of high school in his speech. “We stand at a point

in many ways, very similar to the one four long years ago,” he said. “On the cusp of the next great journey.”

Other students said their time at the school had gone by quickly.

“I wish we had more time together,” Class President Ryan King said before leading his classmates in the tassel switching ceremony, “like some kind of extension.”

Principal David Carradini expressed his pride in the class. “The range of colleges you are attending is remarkable,” he said, adding, “We are called upon in life to live it to the full and that means to live its challenges to the full

as well.”

The audience gained an insight into the students as they each crossed the stage to receive their diplomas.

Senior Class Adviser Linda Taggart read each name along with a brief profile, mentioning their accomplishments in and out of school: peer ministry, Boy Scouts of America and the school newspaper.

Eight students, including the valedictorian and salutatorian, were recognized as candidates for the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a separate diploma that will be awarded in July. Many of the students received scholarships and earned a place in

the National and Rhode Island Honor Societies.

After the students received their diplomas from Carradini and the Rev. Robert C. Evans, auxiliary bishop of Providence, the audience rose to its feet and a few mortar boards were tossed in the air as the students were officially presented as the Class of 2015.

In advising her classmates to appreciate the moment, Salutatorian Alexis Duncan quoted Ferris Bueller, the high school senior in the movie, “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.”

“Life moves pretty fast,” she said, “if you don’t stop to look around once in a while, you might miss it.”

CLASS OF 2015: THE PROUT SCHOOL

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — The following students graduated from The Prout School Tuesday.

Valedictorian: Zachary Johnson Neronha
Salutatorian: Alexis Reed Duncan

Ailish Abbate *, Austin Ahearn *, Matthew Alofsin ^, Fiona L. Añonuevo +**, Despina Valerie Argyis **, Owen Baertlein **, Jonathan Barlow, Zachary Bishop ^, Emily B. Blay **, Jenna Paige Bogan, Daniel Ryan Davis Brebbia **, Kelsey Jane Carthew **, Cailey Carty **, Michaela Cavanagh **, Sarena C. Celseti **, Kenny Lawton Chaffey **, Kanjanatai Chaowai *, Yifeng Chen +*, Amy Nicole Conte **, Matthew

R. Cook +**, Carolyn Sarah Cote **, Michaela Burke Cottam **, Alicia Marie Couture **, Alicia Joan Covell **, Bowen Daileader, Samantha

Nicole Day **, Thomas Robert Desmarais **, Sophia DiLibero **, Austin DiPietro, Ryan Burke Donovan **, Tyler Donovan **, Laura Michelle Doyle, Alexandra Marrinan-Duke **, Alexis Reed Duncan #+**, Brooke Nicole Easton **, Blaise Mallory McGrimely Erker **, Alyson Regina Fairbrother **, Olivia Mae Faria **, Shannon Mary Farrar ^, Sophia Fiore **, Margaret Nöel Flanagan **, Lauren Elizabeth Fogarty ^, Jimmy Joseph Folco ^, Ryan Leo Fox **, Zachary Ryan Gagnon **, Veronica Rose Galligan ^, Julia Lynn Gavin **, Jade Dakota Gillooly, Andrew A. Goodhart, Amanda Ilse Gormley +**, Andrea M. Gosper **, Christian M. Grimes ^, Ryan U. Gwaltney ^, Olivia G. Hirst +**, Julia E. Hopkins **, Jennifer P. Horsfield **, Sejin Hwang **, Liza Marie Izzo **, Victoria J. Izzo **, Catherine Ann Johnson **, West B. Johnson ^, Christopher J. Joseph #+**, Elizabeth M. Kabai ^, John Joseph Kearns #+**, Eliza R. King **, Ryan J. King **, Polina Kirilyuk **, Lauren Kittell-Porter **, Alexander Smith Kleckner, Kiley N. Knott **, Priscilla Kotkowski **, Adriana Kathryn Kremer ^, Bennett Peter Lanni **, Codi Nicole Lawrence *, Nicolas Lefray, Alicia Lopes **, Seth Mace **, Madison Mahar **, Meghan Emily Mailoux **, Matthew David Matrullo **, Meaghan Emily McBride **, Kathryn Alexandra McCormack **, Casey Jean McGowan **, Kathleen Elizabeth McWilliams **, Madison Elizabeth Miller ^, Olivia Ann Mis **, Courtney Ann Moffitt **, Lauren Marie Mongeau **, Rachel Moody **, Brian William Murphy ^, Rachel Eleanor Murphy ^, Sarah Jennifer Murphy ^, Michaela Katherine Muto #+**, James Nicholas Neri **, Alyssa Tally **, W. Mitchell Tavares, Allyson Grace Thomas **, Kylie Till **, Caroline Tounsignant **, Luke Underhill *, Madison Vickers, Nicole Marie Villa **, Lindsey Leyden Walsh **, Elyse Weaver, Collin Wessman **, James Nicholas Williams **, Kaitlyn Noelle Willis **, Michael Wunschel *

Zachary Johnson Neronha #+**, Rachel Carmella Nichols +**, Liam Austin Nolan **, Conor C. Noons, Caroline O’Dowd Oatley **, Kyra Rose O’Connell **, Liam Daniel O’Donnell #+**, Kohl W. Peasley **, Emily S. Pierce **, Patrick R. Quarters **, Kelly A. Regan **, Benjamin R. Roach, Derek S. Rubin **, Rachel A. Ruggieri **, Lydia Rumowicz **, Jessica L. Russo **, Emma J. Sarno **, Carter F. Savastano **, Anna C. Schlenz **, R. Miller Schneider **, Zachary J. Senger **, Peter Walsh Shanley **, Natasha Marion Shein **, Oksana Daphne Shein **, Jeffrey Shoren ^, MaryElizabeth Simkevich **, Kerri Skinkle ^, Jolie Slater **, Ryan Smith **, Kaitlyn Smolan ^, Timothy Sprague ^, Catherine Stone ^, Joshua Storti ^, Talia Sweenor **, Alyssa Tally **, W. Mitchell Tavares, Allyson Grace Thomas **, Kylie Till **, Caroline Tounsignant **, Luke Underhill *, Madison Vickers, Nicole Marie Villa **, Lindsey Leyden Walsh **, Elyse Weaver, Collin Wessman **, James Nicholas Williams **, Kaitlyn Noelle Willis **, Michael Wunschel *

Patrick R. Quarters **, Kelly A. Regan **, Benjamin R. Roach, Derek S. Rubin **, Rachel A. Ruggieri **, Lydia Rumowicz **, Jessica L. Russo **, Emma J. Sarno **, Carter F. Savastano **, Anna C. Schlenz **, R. Miller Schneider **, Zachary J. Senger **, Peter Walsh Shanley **, Natasha Marion Shein **, Oksana Daphne Shein **, Jeffrey Shoren ^, MaryElizabeth Simkevich **, Kerri Skinkle ^, Jolie Slater **, Ryan Smith **, Kaitlyn Smolan ^, Timothy Sprague ^, Catherine Stone ^, Joshua Storti ^, Talia Sweenor **, Alyssa Tally **, W. Mitchell Tavares, Allyson Grace Thomas **, Kylie Till **, Caroline Tounsignant **, Luke Underhill *, Madison Vickers, Nicole Marie Villa **, Lindsey Leyden Walsh **, Elyse Weaver, Collin Wessman **, James Nicholas Williams **, Kaitlyn Noelle Willis **, Michael Wunschel *

Alyssa Tally **, W. Mitchell Tavares, Allyson Grace Thomas **, Kylie Till **, Caroline Tounsignant **, Luke Underhill *, Madison Vickers, Nicole Marie Villa **, Lindsey Leyden Walsh **, Elyse Weaver, Collin Wessman **, James Nicholas Williams **, Kaitlyn Noelle Willis **, Michael Wunschel *

**+National Honor Society
International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate
* Rhode Island Honor Society
^ Scholarship Recipient**



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REGION

Rocky Hill

Continued from A1

graduating class come from cities and towns across the state – and as far away as China.

Branch, who is retiring after serving as head of the school for the last three years, said this year's "remarkable group" of graduates have shown "a commitment to each other and the larger community" and are a source of pride for the faculty and staff.

"They've impressed us with their ability to balance academic demands, artistic endeavors, athletic involvements, service learning and social distractions," he said, adding his thanks for the absence of a senior class prank this year.

University of Rhode Island President Dr. David Dooley served as this year's commencement speaker. With more than 30 years of experience in public and private higher education, Dooley told the audience he had presided over or participated in more than 16 commencement ceremonies, but was never asked to be a commencement speaker.

"So congratulations," he



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Rocky Hill School seniors laugh during the school's commencement exercises held Friday in Potowomut. For more photos, visit IndependentRI.com.

said. "You are the first audience to hear a Dave Dooley commencement speech and, depending on how it goes, you may well be the last."

Speaking to the importance of higher education, he said there is a current and common misbelief that a college education is a commodity that can be bought just like

"a new pickup truck or a 60-inch big screen TV."

As the graduating class heads to their respective colleges and universities in the fall, he urged them to think of higher education as a partnership that provides them with the opportunity for a good education – not a guarantee.

"Whether you seize those opportunities and actually get an education is up to you," Dooley said. "How you take advantage of those opportunities and what and how much you learn is up to you."

The son of a cotton farmer from a small town in California who became a scientist

and the head of state university, Dooley said higher education has the "power to transform your life and to help you become a different and better person."

Addressing his classmates, Valedictorian Brady Dill mixed humor, sentimentality, Latin and Jack Kerouac quotes in his valedictorian speech.

He expressed the "fear, apprehension, excitement and power" he was experiencing as a high school graduate standing on the cusp of independence and adulthood.

"No longer will decisions be made for us, no longer will our lives be chosen for us and no longer will our friends be dictated by the classes, sports teams and lunch tables of a small school, which we all love," Dill said.

He said the far greater challenge he and his classmates will face is free will and how to use it to better themselves and the world around them.

Success, Dill said, will not be measured in dollars or Facebook "likes."

"We may not all be powerful, famous or rich but we are something," he said. "Something important. Something meaningful. Something worthwhile. We have the ability to create change, save lives and live to the fullest. Our life is one grand adventure, so let's live it that way. We don't have to be rock stars or geniuses or millionaires or scientists. We just have to be ourselves and be a version of ourselves that leaves the world a little bit brighter."

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CLASS OF 2015: ROCKY HILL SCHOOL

Giovanni Armonies-Assalone, Julia Asadorian, Capri Catanzaro, Brittany Colasanto, Julien Croy, Noel DellaGrotta, Lisa De-Moranville, Brady Dill, Elizabeth Farber, Emma Fitzelle-Jones, Read Frost, Theodore Had-dow, Julia Hirsch, Jacob Lane, Raymond Mancini, Brenna

Miller, Kathryn Nota, Stephanie Petrone, Samantha Pipher, Rebecca Porras, Adam Proulx, Hang, Qian Hangzhou, Jessilyn Ring, German Rodriguez, Violet Rosenberg, Amanda Siegel, Ziqiao Wang, Shane Woolley, Mengying Xie Wux and Atsa Zah.

Wickford

Continued from A3

two-story brick building into a boutique hotel with 30 to 40 rooms and a multipurpose conference center for meetings and events.

In August 2013, the council unanimously voted to rezone the vacant school building. The property was previously zoned Public and dedicated for public uses, such as federal, state and municipal facilities, cemeteries, schools and other public buildings. It is now part of the Wickford Village Center Zone – a zone that provides flexibility and promotes mixed-use development for housing and

business.

A real estate agreement was extended twice as Weiss and town officials waited to see if voters would approve a bond question allowing sewers to be installed on the property and around Wickford village. A \$4.9 million bond financing the installation of sewers, servicing 52 commercial properties in Wickford, was approved in June with 1,880 voters supporting the bond, and 274 voters opposing it.

But just days before the bond question was approved, Weiss backed out of the deal and town officials spent the next four months putting together the current RFP.

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Ferry

Continued from A2

barely doubled their ridership ... since the *Islander* went into service and that hardly seems worth the investment. As a standalone operation, I would venture a guess that financial losses are significant."

Donadio said Interstate Navigation officials predicted ridership would be 18,000 in 2013, the first year of the Newport service, but has failed to meet that benchmark.

Rhode Island Fast Ferry also submitted additional testimony June 8 to the Division

of Public Utilities and Carriers, including statements from Stephanie Costa, a University of Rhode Island professor who questioned Interstate Navigation's methods in formulating a survey used to predict ridership loss.

Donadio's proposed ferry service must be approved by the state Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. Interstate Navigation has until today to file a response to Donadio's claims. Public hearings on the proposal are slated to begin this fall.

sk@scindependent.com

Meet Fiona



Fiona is a friendly, all-gray kitty. She's about 1 year old. She's up-to-date on her shots, and she tested negative for feline AIDS and feline leukemia. If you would like more information on Fiona, call the Pet Refuge, 500 Stony Lane, North Kingstown, at 294-1115 or stop in during business hours Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adoption applications are available on the shelter's web site at petrefuge.net/adoptions.html.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tax credits, exemptions part of state budget

By Chris Church
Staff Writer

As the current session of the General Assembly nears its close, bills sponsored by local legislators that recently won approval would exempt Social Security benefits from state income tax, rename a bridge in honor of a fallen war hero and allow campers to bring their goldfish, gerbils or parrots to state campgrounds.

After falling short of winning approval for the last three years, the Qualified Jobs Incentive Act proposed by Sen. James Sheehan (D-Dist. 36) of North Kingstown and Narragansett is expected to be included in next year's state budget, after the House of Representatives unanimously approved the \$8.7 billion tax and spending plan Tuesday night. The Senate was expected to approve the budget Wednesday night after the Independent went to press.

Senate Bill S 222 Sub A would provide tax credits to eligible businesses that create new jobs through 2020 and aims to encourage the creation of high-quality jobs in priority industries and areas. Additional incentives may be provided to communities most in need and areas located in transit hubs. The tax credits would range from \$2,500 to \$7,500 and would not exceed the amount of state income taxes generated by the position.

"New, good-paying jobs mean employees paying income tax and buying homes, contributing to charities and spending money at Rhode Island establishments," Sheehan said. "And the money companies save as a result of the incentive is money these firms can reinvest, so they can continue to grow and continue to hire."

House Labor Committee Chairman K. Joseph Shekarchi's (D-Dist. 23) of Warwick introduced a companion bill in the House.

The tax credits would be subject to review and the state's Commerce Corporation would not release credits

until jobs are filled and the taxes are paid on the positions. The Division of Taxation would audit these tax credits annually. If a firm failed to maintain the majority of its jobs, the credits would cease and a fine could be imposed.

Social Security tax exemption also in budget

Legislation exempting Social Security benefits from state income tax, introduced by Rep. Robert Craven (D-Dist. 32) of North Kingstown also was included in next year's budget.

House Bill H 5000 exempts Social Security benefits from being taxed for single tax filers with up to \$80,000 in taxable income, and up to \$100,000 for joint filers.

"This will bring significant financial relief to Rhode Island seniors who receive retirement benefits," Craven said. "After paying into the Social Security system their entire working lives, it doesn't seem right that retirees are having taxes eat away at benefits they depend on for their very livelihood."

Sen. William A. Walaska (D-Dist. 30) of Warwick sponsored similar legislation in the Senate.

Once enacted, Rhode Island will join 27 other states – including Massachusetts, Maine and the District of Columbia – that specifically exempt Social Security income from taxation.

Bill would rename bridge after Coutu

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Matthew Coutu of North Kingstown was 23 when his life was cut short by an Iraqi sniper on June 27, 2005, while investigating a car bombing in Baghdad. He served as a military police officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In an effort to honor his sacrifice, local lawmakers submitted legislation this session to rename the West Davisville Road Bridge as the "Second Lieutenant Matthew Coutu Memorial Bridge."

Craven and Rep. Doreen Costa (R-Dist. 31) of North Kingstown and Exeter submitted House Bill H 6815 last month, and it was unanimously approved by the House. A companion bill also was submitted in the Senate by Sheehan and is pending approval.

Coutu's mother, Donna, of North Kingstown, was at the Statehouse when the House bill was passed May 28.

"Losing a child is never easy," Costa said in a statement. "Donna has shown a great deal of courage and resilience in the years since her son's death. Naming this bridge after Matthew is just one simple way for us as a community to remember him and his ultimate sacrifice," Costa said.

Legislation naming the bridge carrying Boston Neck Road over Route 138 in Sauterstown after Coutu was offered last year, but state officials learned later that the bridge already had a name-sake.

Corporate tax proposal in budget

A bill in the Senate that would have suspended the minimum business corporation tax of \$500 for three years was held for further study, but Sheehan – who co-sponsored Senate Bill S 113 with Sen. Leonidas Raptakis (D-Dist. 33) of East Greenwich, West Greenwich and Coventry – said this week he was happy to see the tax reduced in the proposed budget.

Under existing state tax laws, all Rhode Island businesses are billed a minimum corporate tax of \$500 per year. The budget approved by the House Finance Committee last week reduces that to \$450.

Sheehan called the \$50 reduction "a step in the right direction."

"I think that reduction sends the right message," he said. "And we can work to reduce that amount next year. It seems nonsensical to try to attract new businesses to Rhode Island, and then

welcome them to the state by handing them a tax bill."

Other bills

Legislation introduced by Costa that increases the penalties for sex trafficking of a minor was passed into law last month.

House Bill 5070 increases prison sentences for those convicted of sex trafficking of a minor from 40 years to 50 years. It also increases the penalties for obstruction or interference with the enforcement of sex trafficking laws from 20 years imprisonment to 35 years imprisonment, and a possible fine from \$20,000 to \$45,000.

A bill introduced by Craven to extend the sunset provision of the state's Good Samaritan Overdose Protection Act and expand on the number of potential criminal charges a person could face was passed by the House this month.

The act, which protects people who seek assistance to save the life of someone overdosing on a drug, was set to expire July 1.

House Bill H 5416 extends that date two more years and expands the law to provide immunity from prosecution for the delivery or sale of illegal substances, not just possession, and expands the immunity to cover parole and probation violations, not just arrests on new charges.

The House passed legislation introduced by Rep. Joseph Trillo (R-Dist. 24) of Warwick, whose district includes Potowomut, that would allow domesticated birds, small turtles, gerbils, and goldfish to accompany their owners at state-owned campgrounds.

Costa and Giarrusso are co-sponsors of House Bill H 6094 Sub A, which is slated for a hearing before the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

According to an Associated Press report, the bill was introduced after one of Trillo's constituents was barred from bringing his cockatoo to at least two campsites.

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NORTH KINGSTOWN

Janelle honored for school financial work in NK

By Michael Kimmerlein
Intern

The Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials honored a North Kingstown School Department official as the 2015 R.I. School Business Official June 3.

Selected by his peers for distinguishing himself in the endeavors of business excellence in education, Steven Janelle, controller for the North Kingstown School Department, is well deserving of the honor, according to the Cranston School Department's Chief Financial Officer Joe Balducci, who nominated Janelle.

"He was a clear choice," Balducci said. "We value his opinion when he brings issues to the table."

Balducci serves on the executive board of RIASBO along with Janelle. Balducci said Janelle has been an excellent member of the board, and often takes on issues himself and researches them.

"He doesn't have a problem putting in the time and effort," Balducci said.

"I was very honored and was very proud," said Janelle, who has served as a controller for 23 years in Pawtucket, Warwick and North Kingstown. Prior to working in school

departments, Janelle worked as a controller in the private sector. Working in schools is very different and it's a challenge every day, he acknowledged, but he enjoys it.

Along with Director of Administration Mary King, Janelle has been pursuing the Meritorious Budget Award – a merit given to school districts that successfully conform to the national Association of School Business Officials budget guidelines.

"He's an enormous asset to this district," King said.

According to King, Janelle has done the lion's share of work to prepare an exhaustive budget

document for submission at the end of July.

Beyond providing standard budget data, King said the budget also will provide projection data that is important for local legislation, as well as the residents of North Kingstown.

According to a statement released by RIASBO, Janelle also received the honor of bestowing a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior planning to study business in college. Janelle chose North Kingstown High School senior Emily Auger, the daughter of Superintendent Phil Auger, who will be studying business at American University in the fall.

REGION

EAST GREENWICH

Local veterans take Honor Flight trip to nation’s capital

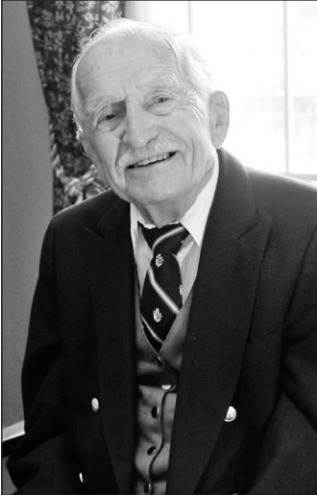
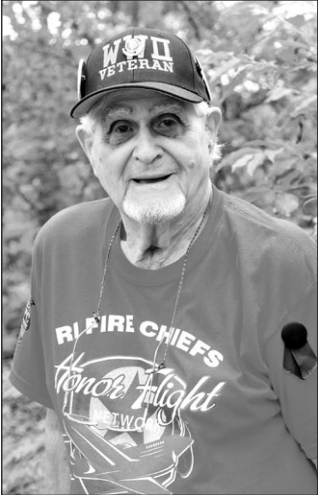
By **Mike Kimmerlein**
Intern

On May 30, three World War II veterans who live in East Greenwich had the opportunity to take a trip to Washington, D.C., and visit the capital’s war memorials, including the monument dedicated to the global conflict they served in. Navy veterans Joseph Regnault and Cal Millette, and Army Air Force veteran Ray McKenna, joined more than 30 other veterans from the region as a part of the Honor Flight Network, a nonprofit group that takes America’s senior veterans to Washington, D.C., to honor their service and sacrifice. The Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs sponsors the Rhode Island affiliate. For all three men, the day trip to D.C. was the experience of a lifetime.

“It was the best day of my life,” Regnault said. For McKenna and Millette, going to the WWII memorial gave them a chance to reflect on their service and that of others. “You think of the people you

were with that didn’t make it,” McKenna said. “It makes you reflect to when you were young,” Millette said. “You look there and you see all the names of the young men, that you could have been one of them. And right then and there, you thank the Lord that somehow you stayed alive.” They also were impressed with the number of people who came up to thank them while they visited the memorials. “You had to have a movie camera to get all those people,” Millette said.

The three East Greenwich residents each had very different experiences in WWII. Regnault, 94, served on three different ships in the Pacific during his time in the Navy. Toward the end of the war, his ship, the USS *Harris* (APA-2), made contact with a Japanese submarine but was unable to sink it, he said. The crew sent a warning to a base in the Philippines, but the message was ultimately ignored. The submarine went on to sink the USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35), one of



PHOTOS: MICHAEL DERR

Honor Flight participants, from left, Cal Millette, Joe Regnault and Raymond McKenna, all of East Greenwich, traveled May 30 to Washington, D.C., to visit the capital’s war memorials.

the most significant losses of U.S. lives in the war. McKenna, 95, spent the majority of his service in the air over Europe flying in a C-54 cargo plane as a crewman. He said that at one time, his plane lost all its engines flying in the cold over the north Atlantic. It wasn’t until they were a few

hundred feet off the water that the engines came back on, he said, and the plane flew to safety. While McKenna never saw combat, he did witness many combat wounded soldiers being flown to hospitals behind the front lines. “Those nurses and technicians did a great job,” he said

of the men and women that cared for the wounded. Millette, 88, was a machinist with the Quonset-born Naval Construction Battalion, or Sea Bees, as they are commonly known. Millette was never on the front lines, but supported the Marines that were. “The Marines took all the

beating,” Millette said. “And God bless them. We were just there to back them up; we built roads for them and constructed their camps.” Upon arriving at T.F. Green Airport after their day in D.C., the Honor Flight attendees were surprised by the greeting they received from friends and family, and what they said were more than 100 people cheering them on and thanking them. “I was shocked,” Regnault said. “I didn’t expect five people. Never in my life was I adored like that.” Along with their families and the public greeting them were the pilots and crew of the Navy’s Blue Angels, who were in town for the Quonset air show. Regnault, McKenna and Millette were all grateful for the experience. “We were king for a day,” Regnault said. Millette added, “It was one of those awe-inspiring things.” McKenna spoke for all the veterans in attendance, saying, “It made us feel darn good.”

EDUCATION

NK won’t get additional funds for all-day K

But funds are available for East Greenwich to expand its program.
By **Chris Church**
Staff Writer

Despite being named in a news release as one of the beneficiaries of a \$1.4 million appropriation in the state budget that aims to expand full-day kindergarten statewide, North Kingstown will not receive any additional funding from the state. General Assembly approval of the appropriation this month came shortly after North Kingstown officials

allocated money to implement district-wide, full-day kindergarten this fall. According to North Kingstown Superintendent Phil Auger, the district had already received \$76,000 in grant funding under incentives put in place by the state Department of Education last year. When asked if the town will miss out on funding because of the timing of the state budget appropriation, Auger said that was not the case. “Our estimates are that we would have received about the same [amount] under the new legislation,” he said. “We didn’t lose out on anything.” Elliot Krieger, spokesman for RIDE, confirmed that

assessment. In a joint press release issued last week by Sen. Hanna M. Gallo (D-Dist. 27) of Cranston and West Warwick and Rep. Stephen R. Ucci (D-Dist. 42) of Johnston and Cranston, North Kingstown was named as one of seven municipalities in the state that don’t offer district-wide full-day kindergarten programs. The other communities are Coventry, Cranston, East Greenwich, Johnston, Tiverton and Warwick. In March, the East Greenwich School Committee approved adding a full-day kindergarten program at Frenchtown Elementary School, following a push

from some residents for a district-wide program. Only Meadowbrook Farms Elementary School previously offered an all-day program. That leaves the George R. Hanaford and James H. Eldredge elementary schools as the remaining schools in East Greenwich that don’t offer all-day kindergarten programming. If the East Greenwich School Committee is interested, funding will be available to the town to implement full-day kindergarten at those schools based on a RIDE funding formula. church@neindependent.com

EAST GREENWICH

Granite Drive man charged with video voyeurism

By **Chris Keegan**
Associate Editor

An East Greenwich man has been charged with recording a 16-year-old girl in the bathroom of his home without her knowledge. East Greenwich Police charged William L. Thompson, 47, of 100 Granite Drive, with video voyeurism June 8, after the teen’s mother told police May 28 she found a video of her daughter on Thompson’s iPad. According to an affidavit by Detective Kerrie Mazur, the woman found the video in the “sent” folder of Thompson’s



Thompson

email, and turned over his iPad and laptop to police. The video, recorded May 6, reportedly showed the teen enter the shower with her back to the camera, which was placed under the bathroom door. Police said Thompson admitted to making the video, but told detectives he recorded it because he was concerned about excessive water

usage and humidity damage to the bathroom ceiling. Detectives seized the iPhone that Thompson said he recorded the video with, and later issued a warrant for his arrest. Thompson entered no plea during his June 8 arraignment in Third Division District Court, which is customary in a felony case. He was released on \$10,000 personal recognizance and he was ordered to have no contact with the alleged juvenile victim. State prosecutors are scheduled to review the case July 13. The terms of Thompson’s bail were modified last week,

and he was granted permission to travel to Colorado to visit his children, as well as Kings Point, New York, to attend a family graduation. Thompson reportedly works as an anesthesiologist in North Providence. Connecticut’s Office of Practitioner Licensing and Investigations, which is responsible for investigating complaints regarding care and service issues for physicians licensed in Connecticut, has requested a copy of the arrest warrant and other public documents related to the case. editorial@neindependent.com

NORTH KINGSTOWN

Water department issues sprinkler rule reminder

By **Independent Staff**

North Kingstown’s Department of Water Supply is reminding residents that the town’s sprinkler ordinance limits outdoor watering during the hottest months of the summer. “North Kingstown water customers have at times during the summer used more water than our well pumps can provide,” a press release issued by Water Quality Specialist G. Timothy Cranston noted. “This reduces tank levels and available fire flow and pressure. The public health and safety implications of

this include compromised ability to fight fires and potential for contamination of the water distribution system. Additionally, the [state] Department of Environmental Management has indicated that North Kingstown’s withdrawals for water supply during these high usage summer months are a direct cause of stress to the rivers, streams and wetlands in the community and have a negative effect on cold water fisheries.” The ordinance requires that lawn watering – whether through an in-ground system or a moveable sprinkler – be

done only twice per week during the months of July and August. Homes and businesses on the east side of Route 1 may water on Mondays and Thursdays only, and those on the west side of Route 1 may only water on Tuesdays and Fridays. No watering is allowed during the hottest part of the day – between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. – on any day, or on Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays. Vegetables and flower gardens may be hand-watered with a watering can or handheld hose on any day of the

week. For property owners with new lawns, short term exemptions to the ordinance may be issued on a case-by-case basis. “Routine lawn and landscape upgrades should be accomplished in the spring or fall months,” the release advised. “No exemptions will be issued for these.” The town can issue penalties of \$500 per day or service shutoff for violations, which are adjudicated through the town’s Municipal Court. For more information, visit northkingstown.org/departments/water.

SUPERIOR COURT

Proposed settlement appears to halt retrial in Sarah’s Trace case

By **Chris Keegan**
Associate Editor

EAST GREENWICH — The six Sarah’s Trace homeowners who filed a lawsuit against the town, the school district and the companies involved in the construction of Archie R. Cole Middle School have requested a retrial, but a proposed settlement will likely stop the lawsuit from moving forward. A Superior Court motion filed earlier this month renews charges that the defendants in the case were negligent during the school’s construction between 2009 and 2011, along with claims related to breach of contract, diminution in market value and “tortious interference” with the use and enjoyment of the homeowners’ properties. The request, which seeks unspecified damages, was filed on the grounds that an “error of law” occurred during the March trial. But in a June 17 email to a court clerk, David E. Maglio – the attorney for plaintiffs Christopher and Susan Lamendola of 50 Sarah’s Trace,

Thomas Hogan and Cynthia Peloso of 40 Sarah’s Trace and Keith and Wendy Amelotte of 35 Sarah’s Trace – said the parties in the case have agreed to the terms of a settlement. He requested 30 days to work out an agreement. Maglio did not return phone messages by press time Wednesday, while the town’s attorney, Michael DeSisto, and Brian Newberry – the attorney for Paul D. Aldinger & Associates Inc. and Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates Inc. – declined comment on the proposed settlement. Also named as defendants in the retrial motion are Gilbane Building Company, and Gilbane’s two subcontractors – Fleet Construction Company and Manafort Brothers Inc. A jury found the town created and maintained a private nuisance during the school’s construction, after the couples alleged the use of vibratory rollers and heavy track equipment shook their homes and caused cracks in foundations, walls and other

Settlement/A5

MEETINGS OF NOTE

NORTH KINGSTOWN
The **Wickford Economic Development Advisory Board** meets Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room, 80 Bos-

ton Neck Road.
EAST GREENWICH
The **Planning Board** meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 125 Main St.

CORRECTION

A story in the June 18 print edition incorrectly noted that Rocky Hill School’s Head of School Peter Branch is retiring after serving for the last three

years. Branch announced in April he will retire next June after his third year as head of school. The Independent regrets the error.



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Town of North Kingstown
Notice of Public hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Town of North Kingstown Zoning Board of Review will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 14th , 2015 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, 80 Boston Neck Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the following request:
Request by Henry J. Gauthier for the approval of dimensional variance(s) for setback relief for the construction of a shed, porch, air conditioner/Generator concrete pad, hot tub concrete pad, rear deck and south side entrance door/step concrete pad and for a special use permit for an accessory dwelling unit over existing commercial unit referred to as Studio 460, located at 460 Tower Hill Road, Plat 86, Lot 33 as provided for in Section 21-11(b) of the North Kingstown Zoning Ordinance.
The Town of North Kingstown will provide interpreters for the hearing impaired provided that three (3) days written notice is given in advance. Plans of this application may be examined at the North Kingstown Department of Planning & Development, 55 Brown Street, during normal business hours.

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Anniversary

Continued from C1

craftspeople and that has kept her coming back to the almost 200-year-old house.

While the weekend celebration will note the Craft Guild's 50 years as a village group, the house itself is an attraction, having been the home of the Fayerweather family—a number of whom were village blacksmiths who also held other important community posts many decades ago, such as a sexton at the Kingston Congregational Church. One Fayerweather, George III, also a blacksmith, married Sarah Harris of Connecticut in the 1830s. She was the first African American girl admitted to Miss Prudence Crandall's school in Canterbury, which was "forcibly closed under the notorious Connecticut Black Law of 1835," notes a Kingston Improvement Association history. They raised 12 children at this house.

The Fayerweathers, described by Doctor who has researched the family in detail, were "prominent in the Kingston community." Their blacksmithing skills, perhaps the first "craft" to be celebrated at this house, "were central to the community not only to



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Cynthia Smyth, president of Fayerweather Craft Guild, puts out a sign to attract customers during the guild's opening day of the season, held in May.

make horseshoes, but also to make tools, to make guns, to make repairs."

Visitors to the house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, will find ample history available to read and see, with one wall in the keeping room left open to the colonial lathing. The wide floorboards and central chimney in the three rooms of the first floor often evoke admiring comments from

visitors.

But it is the crafters who keep this corner of Kingston an active and busy place and who are being celebrated this weekend with their own personal 50-year history as an organization.

While many of the first generation of crafters have passed away, Doctor said, "We have almost 20 new members, which is extraordinarily encouraging. The crafters have

kept the tradition of early American crafting alive, and in doing so, kept the history of the house alive."

For more information, call 789-9072 or visit facebook.com/FayerweatherCraftGuild. Hours are May to October, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and November and December, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

ArtVenture 2 returns to local trails Saturday

By Michael Kimmerlein
Intern

The Wickford Art Association will hold ArtVenture 2 at various North Kingstown trails and parks July 18 through Aug. 2.

ArtVenture 2 gives community members an opportunity to find hidden art pieces created by local artists. From nature trails to Wickford village, art seekers can find unique, handmade art concealed in the surrounding landscape.

Unlike previous years, ArtVenture 2 will feature art that isn't resistant to the elements. Photographs of these pieces will be placed in water-tight containers, and people who find them will be able to claim the actual art at the "Meet Your

Artist" reception Aug. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Wickford Art Association, 36 Beach St., Wickford.

This year, hikers will be able to find a photo of a snowy owl on a canvas courtesy of North Kingstown's harbormaster and award-winning nature photographer Ed Hughes. Hughes's photographs are taken within 30 miles of his North Kingstown home and he doesn't use Photoshop to alter the original, only editing to enhance the quality of the image, according to Hughes's statement on the Wickford Art Association website.

"Taking pictures of wildlife and landscapes has become my life's passion," Hughes said in the statement. "I'm

humbled and amazed at what our small corner of the world has to offer."

One winner will have a portrait created of their house, courtesy of portraitist Gail Shawn Burda, whose work includes color and black-and-white pencil drawings of homes, businesses and older buildings of interest. The coupon for a free 9-inch by 12-inch home portrait will be hidden during the last weekend of the hunt.

Another featured artist is North Kingstown Community Chorus Director Roberta Spink Belanger. Art hunters will be able to find kits for Belanger's cross-stitch art; her designs include lighthouses and maps of all 50 states.

Art will be hidden for 16 days along trails at Blue Beach, Bush Hill, Calf Pasture Point, Davisville Middle School, Ryan Park (Oak Hill and Lafayette entrances) and Smith's Castle, as well as along the Historic Wickford walking tour and the Wilson Park bike path.

Calf Pasture Point, the Historic Wickford Walking Tour and Wilson Park Bike Trail are all accessible to the disabled.

Hikers will be able to meet artists on the opening day of the event Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at most trailheads. Participants are encouraged to post their finds along with comments and photos on the North Kingstown Arts Council's website, nkartscouncil.org.

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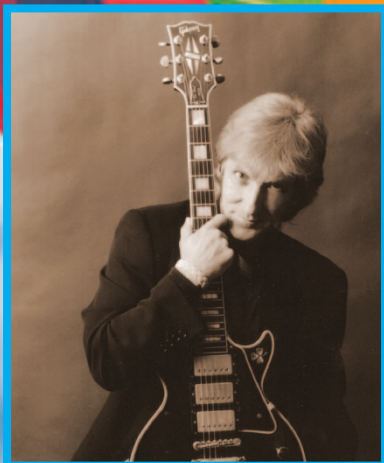
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CHECK IT OUT!

Hale Library is 'a summer place'

By Michael Kimmerlein
Intern

If you are looking for a good beach read, the Robert Beverly Hale Library is the place to go. Since its dedication in 1896, the library has been serving the villages of Perryville and Matunuck. Built by neighbors in memory of the youngest child of author Edward Everett Hale, who summered in Matunuck from 1873 to 1910, the library originally opened as a summer library.

According to librarian Mary Ann Comstock, while it's open year-round, it's still very much a summer library.

"We had a book sale this past weekend and the first person on Saturday said 'I'm going to the beach and I really need a paperback,' so she was our first customer of the day on her way to the beach," Comstock said.

Patrons arrive with the whole family – sometimes even the dog – to find books to take back to their beach houses.

"Kids are usually running



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Kim Korb, an educator with Farm Fresh Rhode Island, reads to children at the Robert Beverly Hale Library in Matunuck Tuesday.

around, back and forth and making noise," Comstock said. "Some people have their dogs in their car and they know they can bring them on in. It's just sort of open – it's a nice, free, open feeling."

It has a neighborly, throw-back feel – it has only two computers, and was one of

the last libraries in the state to quit stamping books. "People were very upset with the move to a printout," Comstock said. "They much prefer to see us hitting the book with a stamp, but it's one of those things where technology has moved on."

"It's a very popular reading material library," said Comstock, who is responsible for the selection and purchase of books, audio books and DVDs. Because of its small size and slower pace, patrons make connections with the staff, and trust their personalized reading recommendations. "We're not a big library, so we do have the time to spend with them. There are certain patrons who

gravitate to certain workers of the library."

Director of Children and Teen Services Brandi Fong said oftentimes when a new book comes in, she has a child in mind who will enjoy it. "I pay a lot of attention to what kids are asking for, what they check out and what goes out," she said. "When I get new books in, I know what those kids might like, and I can gladly show them, 'I just got this in, and I know you'll love it.'"

Fong visited this library as a child, never imagining she would work here. With a degree in business, she did not find work she loved as much as her part-time job at the Peace Dale Library. "I realized how much I liked it and ended up going back to school for my master's degree and changed careers," Fong said.

The library, surrounded by trees on the southbound side of Route 1, is easy to pass by without notice.

"Most of the time, people have been going by for however-many years and didn't realize it was a library," Comstock said. "Or you get the people who have been coming for a million years."

One couple who visited loved the layout so much, "they came in and just sort of jotted down dimensions because they wanted to build a home in the same style."

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