

GRIST MILL New ship has not seen these waters

Ever since grammar school days, we have discussed Rhode Island's two naval heroes, the brothers, both commodores — Oliver Hazard Perry and Matthew Calbraith Perry. Unless I am terribly in error, we always included their middle names in oral and written exercises.



LEONARD PANAGGIO

Not too long ago, I read about the U.S. naval ship Matthew Perry (T-AKE-9). She was launched and christened on Aug. 16, 2009, sponsored by Hester Evans, a great-great-great granddaughter of Commodore Matthew Perry. The Matthew Perry was among many ships that participated in disaster relief in Japan after the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

That account I read surprised me, as I do not recall any news about this ship, which evidently has been busy for several months. Did I miss something of Newport and Rhode Island interest in local newspapers about her?

The contract to build the Matthew Perry was awarded to the National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. of San Diego in January 2006. Construction began on Oct. 3, 2008, and the ship was launched on Aug. 16, 2009.

The Matthew Perry is a big ship: 689 feet long with a beam of 105 feet and 41,000 metric tons. She is a floating warehouse and delivers whatever ships of the fleet need, such as ammunition, provisions, stores, potable water and petroleum products, and also spare parts, of which we assume she must have a large variety. She also can be required to serve as a shuttle ship or station ship.

So much for this new ship. Will it ever make a visit to Newport?

We take some satisfaction by remembering that the fast frigate Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7) included that middle name when she left Bath Iron Works and was commissioned on Dec. 17, 1977. She also had the distinction of her name always being mentioned when another fast frigate was named as being one of the class of Oliver Hazard Perry fast frigates.

And that Perry (last-name use is proper when the full name has appeared in lead of a report) was a frequent visitor to Pier 2 in the years before she was decommissioned.

WE HAVE ALL HEARD THE PLEA that the government release some of its millions of gallons of gasoline in order to keep our economic conditions from faltering and creating general hardship.

Back in October 1919, it was learned that the Navy Department had in reserve 9 million pounds of sugar. Secretary Josephus Daniels intimated that he would release 3 million pounds for public use as the nation was experiencing a shortage of the commodity. Daniels indicated that only a three months' supply of sugar is usually kept on hand.

The War Department let it be known, however, that its supply of sugar was running low. What was on hand, it was reported, would only last until December. Until sugar would be available, Quartermaster General Rogers wired all zone supply officers that the sales of sugar to any person in the service be limited to not more than six pounds per month.

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1889, Jamestowners were concerned about a report that the steamer Jamestown, which was plying at New London, Conn., was sunk by a collision with another vessel. Much to their relief, the inhabitants of Conanicut Island learned it was not true.

The Daily News reported that the report probably originated from the fact that there had been a collision between the ferryboat and a vessel, which damaged quite badly the upper works of the ferryboat and demolished the smoking room. The damages were given temporary repairs and the boat was back on the route.

Full repairs were to be made when the boat whose place the Jamestown was filling returned to the line. It was understood that the owners of the Jamestown will suffer no loss, the loss belonging to the company by whom it was leased.

LOOKING BACK: June 14, 1999: Tennis greats John McEnroe and John Courier were here for an exhibition game at the Newport Casino.

Leonard Panaggio is a Daily News columnist.

Museum pays tribute to Irish roots

By James J. Gillis
Daily News staff

NEWPORT — It's not the spacious museum its founders once envisioned, but the Museum of Newport Irish History manages to squeeze a lot of information into a small space.

The museum opened its interpretive center at 648 Thames St., Saturday morning, with Mayor Stephen C. Waluk cutting a green ribbon in the doorway to a room that is packed with memorabilia and artifacts saluting Newport's Irish heritage.

"I'm delighted, that's the best word," said Vincent Arnold of Middletown, who came up with the idea for the museum in 1996. "We've had some delays along the way. But I'm happy with the way it's turned out. It's smaller than we would have liked, but I think it works."

The walls feature tributes to the Irish of past and present in Newport, under the headings of Live, Play,

'I'm delighted, that's
the best word.'

VINCENT ARNOLD

president of the Museum
of Newport Irish History

Work, Pray. One exhibit features photos of mayors of Irish heritage, dating back to Patrick Boyle in 1895 up to Waluk. Another exhibit features the work of the Irish in building Fort Adams, and one section is devoted to the Irish who built railroad lines and canals on the East Coast and another features news accounts of the 1919 visit of Eamon de Valera, Irish political icon and former president of Ireland.

Waluk said lower Thames Street, in the heart of the Irish-American enclave the old Fifth Ward, is a good location. "A lot of us live in the Fifth Ward or have lived in the Fifth Ward,"

ROOTS A5



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff

Barbara Kane O'Neill of Newport visits the Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center on Thames Street during an opening celebration on Saturday.

Cast of survivors



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff photos

Fly fishing guide Rob Provost of Leominster, Mass., applauds the technique of breast cancer survivor Christine Quillen of the Berkshires as she practices casting Sunday at Third Beach in Middletown.

Program gives fishing getaway to women in fight with cancer

By James J. Gillis
Daily News staff

MIDDLETOWN — In the midst of a downpour with headwinds blasting them, 14 women waded into the waters of Third Beach attempting to catch stripers.

Cold? Wet? Yes, but compared to what they've been through, fishing in a rainstorm is easy. The 14 women are all breast cancer survivors, having undergone mastectomies, chemotherapy and radiation therapy through the years.

They were part of a two-day program called Casting for Recovery, part of a national activity that blends fishing with breast cancer recovery. Fly fishing — which the women were learning — is good for draining lymphatic glands.

And fishing in general is relaxing and potentially confidence building.

"These women have been through so much, and this is a chance for

them to get together and have some fun," said Brenda Sears of East Dennis, Mass., a fishing guide who coordinated the program. "They all have something in common. And if they catch something, it's pretty exciting."

Diana Breed is also from Massachusetts and is retired from teaching dyslexic children. In the past 20 years she has battled a breast cancer diagnosis and a few recurrences. She worked with volunteer fishing guide Jim Clinton from Whitman, Mass., on Sunday and admitted that her fishing skills were, um, untested.

"I did catch a fish with a safety pin once," she said. "That's about it."

The women and their guides — called river helpers — stayed in the dorms at St. George's School Saturday night. They used the school gym for their first fly-fishing lessons. But trying to

SURVIVORS A5

'These women
have been through
so much, and this
is a chance for
them to get
together and
have some fun.'

BRENDA SEARS

fishing guide, shown at left



ON THE WATER

Tour boat comes from a top builder of replicas

Boat: Beacon.
Owner: Scarano Boat Building, Albany, N.Y.
Designer/Builder: Scarano Boat Building.

Hull: Epoxy/cedar strip plank over laminated wood frames.

Year: 2002.
Length: 40 feet (12.1 meters).

History: The roots of Scarano Boat Building go back to John Scarano's childhood boating adventures on Kinderhook Lake in upstate New York. What started out as a simple boat repair business on the lake went on to become one of the region's preeminent boat building companies. In 1986, Rick Scarano joined his brother to build the first of what would become many Coast Guard-certified passenger carrying vessels.

Now, working from a 90,000-square-foot facility on the west bank of the Hudson River, Scarano Boat Building enjoys a reputation as the premier builder of historic replica canal boats, operational replica vessels, and passenger carrying sail and power boats.

In addition to building boats, Scarano also runs tour boat operations in Manhattan, N.Y., Key West, Fla., and



Will Tuthill photo

Newport. Typically, at this time of year, Adirondack II would be in Newport, but because of increased demand for its sailing tours in New York, the Scarano-built power vessel Beacon is here instead for the month of June. Beacon can be seen at Bowen's Wharf through

the end of this month.

"On the Water," a weekly feature that highlights local and visiting boats of interest to the area, is produced by freelance writer Will Tuthill.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Regular features on the Local & State section front:

Monday: 'On the Water,' highlighting local and visiting boats of interest.

Tuesday: 'Off the Clock,' taking a look at the extracurricular activities Newport County residents are passionate about.

Wednesday: 'Remember When?' What was making the news this month in history.

Thursday: 'Then & Now,' produced in conjunction with local historical organizations.

Friday: 'Student of the Week,' shining a spotlight on local students.

LOCAL&STATE

LOCAL BRIEFS

Potter Pet University class is scheduled

MIDDLETOWN — The Potter League for Animals, 87 Oliphant Lane, will host its June session of the Potter Pet University on Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The topic of the session will be "Animals in Entertainment" with guest speaker Lynne Mallonee Sabel, director of humane education at the Potter League. She will provide information on animal actors, how they are trained and what measures are taken to ensure they are not harmed in the process.

The program is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted.

To register for the lecture, contact Amy Chamard at 846.8276, Ext. 118, or amyc@potterleague.org. For more information, visit www.potterleague.org.

National security is topic of seminar

NEWPORT — As part of its "Great Decisions" Seminar Series, the Newport Council for International Visitors will present "The Other Side of COIN: Building the Afghan Army and Police" with guest speaker Derek Reveron on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, Salve Regina University, Young Building, 518 Bellevue Ave.

Reveron, a professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College, will draw from his latest book, "Exporting Security," and provide an analysis of the shift in U.S. foreign policy, information on how and why the U.S. military is an effective tool of foreign policy, and information on the methods used to reduce security deficits around the world. Following the talk, he will be available to sign copies of his book.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. To make a reservation, send an email to gdreservations@newportciv.org, and specify the seminar topic, number and names of those attending, and a contact phone number. For more information, contact Bob Sleertin at 847-5196.

Author set to discuss 'Lessons from Everest'

NEWPORT — Tim Warren, the first Rhode Islander to reach the summit of Mount Everest, will discuss his book, "Lessons from Everest: 7 Steps to the Top of Your World," on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St.

The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For more information, call 847-8720, Ext. 208, or send an email to lowens@newportlibraryri.org.

CALENDAR

TODAY

BLOOD DRIVE — Newport County YMCA (basketball court), 792 Valley Road, Middletown, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Hosted by the Rhode Island Blood Center. 248-5730.

TUESDAY

BLOOD DRIVE — St. Catherine's Church, 74 Simmons Road, Little Compton, 3-8 p.m. **Also**, Forest Avenue Elementary School (gym), 315 Forest Ave., Middletown, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Hosted by the Rhode Island Blood Center, 248-5730. **BOOK DISCUSSION** — Newport Public Library (Stride Room), 300 Spring St., Newport, 1 p.m. "Aesop's Mirror" by Maryalice Huggins will be discussed. 847-8720 or www.newportlibraryri.org.

WEDNESDAY

BLOOD DRIVE — Newport Hospital (lobby), 11 Friendship St., Newport, noon-5:30 p.m. Hosted by the Rhode Island Blood Center. 248-5730. **AUTHOR TALK** — Newport Public

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

MIDDLETOWN

TUESDAY
Beach Commission, 4:30 p.m., Sachuest Beach, Sachuest Point Road.

THURSDAY
School Committee, 7 p.m., Oliphant administration building.

NEWPORT

TODAY
Redevelopment Agency, 5 p.m., City Hall, council chamber.

TUESDAY
Film Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, council chamber.

WEDNESDAY
Cliff Walk Commission, 6 p.m., Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St.

PORTSMOUTH

TODAY
Town Council, 7 p.m., Town Hall.

'If we can come here and offer each other support and have some fun at the same time, it's a great thing.'

Ruth Griffin of Quincy, Mass., who has been diagnosed with cancer three times



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff

Peter Jenkins, the owner of Saltwater Edge in Middletown, teaches Wendy Homer of Chatham, Mass., how to cast with a fly rod Sunday at Third Beach in Middletown. Homer was among several breast cancer survivors participating in the Casting for Recovery retreat.

Survivors

Continued from A3

make their newfound skills work on a rainy Sunday morning proved harder than gym practice. No one had gotten a bite by late morning, though Sears was hopeful.

"We're getting a strong north wind," she said. "And the rain doesn't help. But I haven't heard any of these women ask to come back in yet. When you think of what they've been through in life, this isn't so bad."

Casting for Recovery (castingforrecovery.org) started in Manchester, Vt., in 1996 and runs weekend retreats in 44 states, as well as in Canada and New Zealand. The goal is to provide a fun weekend with counselors and medical staff on hand. The women who participate attend for free, and

the organization raises funds for their expenses.

Casting for Recovery also relies heavily on volunteers. John Bagwill of Middletown, a retired pension analyst, helped coordinate the local visit with Sears. Many of the women who participate return as volunteers.

A major rule: You can only take part in the fishing clinic once. So women like Ruth Griffin of Quincy, Mass., and Caroline Ronten of Arlington, Mass., who met during a 2008 retreat, paid their way to take part as volunteers. Both are survivors; Griffin has been diagnosed three times. "My sister," she said, "was just diagnosed in the last week. If we can come here and offer each other support and have some fun at the same time, it's a great thing."

Gillis@NewportRI.com

POLICE & FIRE MIDDLETOWN

Nabbed on warrant

William H. Normandin, 33, of 4 Findlay Place, Newport, was arrested today about 6:35 a.m. on a warrant charging him with failing to show up for a District Court hearing on his ability to pay fines.

Police said they stopped Normandin's car on East Main Road for driving 52 mph in a 35-mph zone. They learned of the warrant during a routine check, police said.

Disorderly conduct charged

Melissa L. Letendre, 30, of Middleborough, Mass., was cited Saturday about 11:30 p.m. on a disorderly conduct charge.

Police said Letendre urinated in some bushes outside the McDonald's on West Main Road, then got in her car and drove off. Portsmouth police stopped her car a few minutes later. Letendre was ordered to appear in Municipal Court on June 28.

No-contact order charge

Aljerrett M. Brown, 19, of 602 Dupont St., Portsmouth, was arrested on a charge of violating a no-contact order Sunday about 1:30 p.m.

Police received a report of a suspicious vehicle parked outside the Shell Station at West Main Road and Forest Avenue. Police found Brown and an 18-year-old Portsmouth woman, who said they were fixing a reflector on the car.

There is a no-contact order prohibiting Brown from being with the woman, police said.

PORTSMOUTH

Drunken driving alleged

Alan Rash, 50, of West Warwick was arrested Sunday about 5 p.m. on a drunken-

driving charge.

Police said they stopped Rash's car on the Mount Hope Bridge after it was seen traveling erratically. He failed a field sobriety test and was taken to Newport Hospital for a blood alcohol test, police said.

Local man charged

Steven White, 48, of 1625 East Main Road was arrested there Friday about 10:15 p.m. and charged with making harassing phone calls.

A 49-year-old local woman reported that White had made several harassing phone calls to her earlier in the day.

Warrant arrest

Bryan Newbold, 25, of 203 Railroad Ave. was arrested Sunday about 1 a.m. on a District Court warrant charging him with failing to show up for a community service review hearing.

Police said they picked up Newbold inside a tavern on Park Avenue.

TIVERTON

Marijuana charge

Randy Audet, 48, of 25 Stafford Road was arrested Friday about 5:20 p.m. on charges of possessing marijuana, driving while possessing a controlled substance and driving while his license was suspended.

State Police said they stopped Audet's car on West Main Road in Portsmouth for a motor vehicle violation.

NEWPORT

Warrant arrest

Melanie E. Maher of 5 Fir St., Apt. 1, was arrested Friday about 10:30 p.m. on a District Court warrant charging her with failing to appear for a payment review hearing. Police said they stopped her car after it ran a stop sign at Farewell and Marlborough streets and learned of the warrant during a routine check.

RHODE ISLAND BRIEFS

Lawmakers to weigh tighter seat belt law

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island lawmakers will consider a proposal to allow police to pull over and fine motorists who don't buckle up.

A Senate committee plans to review the bill Tuesday. Similar legislation has been introduced in the House.

Current law allows police to ticket drivers who are transporting unbelted children. But adult motorists may only be ticketed for not wearing a safety belt if they have already been pulled over for another violation like speeding.

Supporters say a stronger seat belt law would save an estimated four lives every year and prevent many more traffic injuries. However, opponents say the state can't legislate common sense.

A vote on the bill is not scheduled.

Summit to address future for young

WARWICK — Rhode Island's governor and part of its congressional delegation are set to take part in a summit on problems that keep young Rhode Islanders from leading successful lives as adults.

The summit, "Pathways to Prosperity," is intended to make young people in the state aware of their options for technical training and earning other kinds of credentials. The event is slated to take place Monday morning at the Community College of Rhode Island's campus in Warwick and will include business and education leaders.

Also among those scheduled to attend are Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee, Reps. David N. Cicilline and Jim Langevin and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse.

♦ Associated Press

CONTACT US

How to send information to The Daily News:

News releases: Newsroom@NewportRI.com.

Sports scores, releases: Sports@NewportRI.com, 380-2352.

Readers' pictures for Your Photos feature: YourPhotos@NewportRI.com

EDITORS

Executive Editor Sheila Muldowney: Editor@NewportRI.com, 380-2351.

City Editor M. Catherine Callahan: CityDesk@NewportRI.com, 380-2354.

Sports Editor Scott Barrett: Barrett@NewportRI.com, 380-2356.

News Editor Harvey Peters: Peters@NewportRI.com, 380-2376.

REPORTERS

Joe Baker (Statehouse, Jamestown): Baker@NewportRI.com, 380-2359.

Sean Flynn (Newport): Flynn@NewportRI.com, 380-2360.

James J. Gillis (entertainment): Gillis@NewportRI.com, 380-2363.

James A. Johnson (Portsmouth): Johnson@NewportRI.com, 380-2369.

Matt Sheley (Middletown): Sheley@NewportRI.com, 380-2358.

Marcia Pobeznik (Tiverton correspondent): Pobeznik@NewportRI.com.

SPORTSWRITERS

Josh Krueger: Krueger@NewportRI.com.

Rick McGowan: McGowan@NewportRI.com.

OPINION PAGE

Opinion Page Editor Gary Ruff: Ruff@NewportRI.com, 380-2372.

Letters to the editor: Editor@NewportRI.com.

Letters and press releases also can be sent by fax to 849-3306.



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff

Vincent Arnold of the Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center on Thames Street came up with the idea to create the museum in 1996. 'We've had some delays along the way,' he said. 'But I'm happy with the way it's turned out.'

Roots

Continued from A3

the mayor said.

The museum is inside the former Margolis photo studio. In its early stages, plans called for locating it inside Fort Adams but that proved unworkable. "With the environment and dampness, it would have been a mess," Arnold said. "Then we looked at the Mule Barn (next to the fort) and that didn't work out. About a year ago, we came up with this space."

Northeast Collaborative Architects — particularly Holly Grosvenor and Cheryl Hackett — helped develop the space. "They've been able to put a lot into a small storefront," Grosvenor said. "I've enjoyed it. It's made me rediscover my own Irish roots."

The museum will be open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October.

A small but curious crowd turned out for the ribbon cutting and to get a look at the

photos, maps, documents and other memorabilia. Local Irish historian Patrick Murphy said the center is designed so exhibits can be moved in and out and shifted when more space is needed.

"We will have more than this," he said.

Arnold said the museum's center cost about \$25,000 to open, that money coming mostly from fundraising events with some grants.

Some of the other features include a DVD of Newport Irish history, along with a pictorial salute to Catholic churches such as St. Joseph's, St. Augustin's and St. Mary's, with photos of the marriage of then U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier.

"What's going to happen now, is that a lot of artifacts are going to come from out of the woodwork," said City Council member Henry "Harry" Winthrop. "Now that this place is open, people are going to start digging up stuff they've kept for a long time."

Gillis@NewportRI.com



A friend is waiting at
The Potter League
www.PotterLeague.org