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Islander wins national player of the year honor

By Adrienne Downing

Until two months ago, unless someone was involved with North Kingstown High School athletics or on one of the teams that played the Skippers, they were not familiar with islander Ryan Morris. But, in the last month, all of that has changed for the soft-spoken football and baseball player when he was named both the baseball Gatorade Player of the Year for Rhode Island and a finalist in the Cox Sports Awards.

The baseball Gatorade Player of the Year award is given annually to the best baseball player in Rhode Island and Morris is the first player from NK to win the honor since the award was established in 1985.

Gatorade award winners are selected on the basis of outstanding athletic excellence accompanied by high standards of academic achievement and exemplary personal character dem-

onstrated on and off the field. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE Magazine.

Morris was in good company among the nominees, with teammates and friends David D'Errico and Cody Normand also receiving nominations.

"It really caught me by surprise," Morris said. "Dave and Cody are my best friends and really great players, so I was really surprised."

One person who was not surprised by the award was Skippers head baseball coach Kevin Gormley. "I was thrilled that he got it. All three of those players are great kids and it would have been impossible for me to choose between them, but Ryan does not get the accolades that he deserves because he is such a quiet leader," Gormley said.

Morris started playing baseball when he was 3 years old and his father, Dave, was a coach at the University of Rhode Island. "My

dad was the one who put baseball into my life. I would hang out at the field with him and he would let me play catch with the players and just be around the game constantly," Morris said. "He really taught me about something that I love to do."

Morris played in Jamestown in his early years and then moved to Little League in North Kingstown where he first met up with D'Errico and Normand.

After catching, pitching and playing third base for the Lawn Avenue School team in middle school, Morris made the varsity team as a freshman at NK. "I played third base at the high school my freshman and sophomore year and even at the start of my junior year," he said.

He did not stay at third base for long that year, however. One NK shortstop had arm trouble and another became academi-

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Shortstop Ryan Morris directs a play during Sunday's playoff game against Bishop Hendricken. Photo by David Zaparka

Proposed subdivision gets support from Planning Commission

By Tyler Will

Jamestown Planning Commission members unanimously expressed support for a subdivision on a Clinton Avenue property because the applicant is attempting to comply with town ordinances, preserve trees and care for the environment. The preliminary review of the subdivision was held at the June 3 meeting.

"I think we have preserved a lot more than most others would,"

applicant Nikki Andrews told the commission.

The property on the corner of Clinton Avenue and High Street. It is about 15,000 square feet with a single-family home that is two houses joined together. Andrews applied to subdivide the property into three lots and remove the older of the two homes, which she said is in disrepair.

The required frontage has been met for each subdivision, in addi-

tion to the minimum square footage and building setback. No dimensional relief is needed.

Andrews said some of the reason for the unusual compliance was her family's history in the area.

"We live here, we want it to be nice, so there is no reason to go and fight what's ahead of us," she said after the meeting. In the proposal profit was forgone for preservation,

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New Geographic Information System now available online

By Eileen M. Daly

Jamestown's Geographic Information System, also known as GIS, is now available online for public use.

"A municipal GIS is a combination of people, mapping, database software and network infrastructure that allows communities to compile, sort, manage and manipulate data to answer specific questions relating to safety, planning, public utilities, development and recreation," said a summary provided by the town.

In the fall of 2005, the town's consultants, Fuss & O'Neil, completed a GIS needs assessment and five-year implementation plan. Using this plan as a guide, the town has aggressively pursued implementation of the GIS.

Environmental Scientist Justin Jobin is the GIS coordinator for the town. "In the past, we used to have hand-drawn plat maps," Jobin said. The new GIS system,

he said, is more sophisticated. "These maps are geo-referenced, tied to real life coordinates, which allows us to easily add other data layers and customize the maps to our individual needs," Jobin said.

The GIS system has multiple uses for the municipality as well as for residents.

There are three basic levels of use for the system, Jobin said. An individual can access the GIS on their computer at home by going to the town website and then clicking on the Web-GIS link or by using a web browser and typing www.maistreetmaps.com/RI/Jamestown into the web browser. If Java is not installed on the computer then click on the Download Java link, and then click on agree. It will then be possible to search by address, owner or parcel ID to obtain property details.

Available information includes

See "Maps" on page 11



And they're off

Kids jockey for position at the start of the kid's race at Ali's run on Sunday. The fun run is a favorite start to the annual road race.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten