

...the planning  
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Acute Partner's  
a 59,070 square-  
er's care facility  
ze the Larchwood

"The proposed use of the  
property is a use allowed by  
right in the commercial down-  
town zoning district and there  
are no regulatory restrictions

the proposed use of the property  
is consistent with the town's  
comprehensive plan."  
Because alignment with the  
comprehensive plan is the only  
basis that the planning board has

went so far as to allege that the  
planning board is "actively  
slow-rolling" the project.  
"They can't stop it," he wrote  
in a letter to the editor that pub-  
lished in Wednesday's

government should be above  
this kind of abuse."  
The public has made an

PLANNING, page 3-A

# Matthews

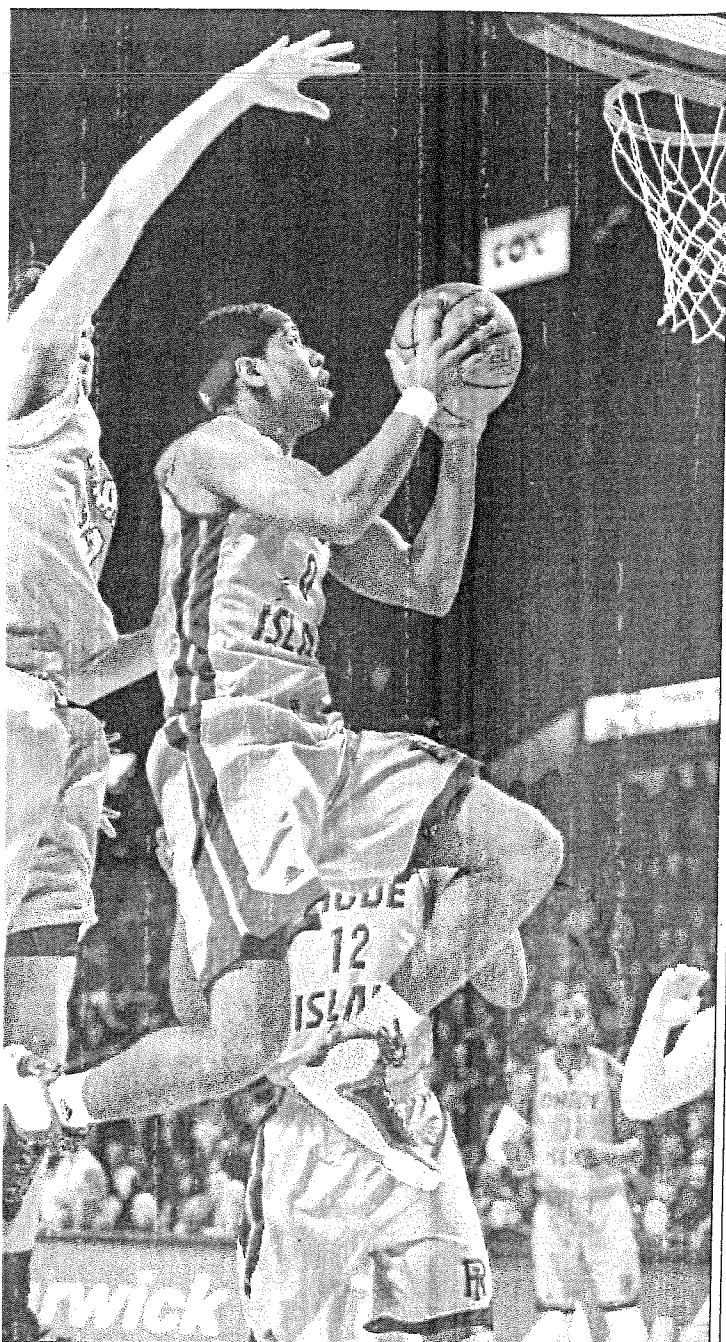


PHOTO BY JERRY SILBERMAN/RISPORTSPHOTO.COM  
E.C. Matthews takes the ball to the hoop during URI's 68-60 loss  
to College on Wednesday night at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.  
Matthews scored all scorers with 27 points. See the full story on page 1-B.

## Pier Middle School to host robotics qualifying tournament tomorrow

By KENDRA LOLIO

NARRAGANSETT – The First Lego League Rhode Island Robotics Qualifying Tournament will be held at the Narragansett Pier Middle School this year on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. About 200 students from around the state will test their robot design and programming skills at the tournament, including teams from Jamestown, North Kingstown, Newport, Woonsocket, Middletown, North Providence, East Providence, Charlestown, and Wakefield.

The competition, one of four being held statewide, is the next step following months of scientific research and problem solving among 19 teams of about 10 students each. Students range in age from 9 to 14, and over 70 teams exist statewide.

This year, teams collaborated to build a Lego-based robot and were asked to complete a research project based on the theme "World Class: Learning Unleashed."

During the tournament, robots will compete head to head in what is known as The Robot Game, which involves different obstacles on a game field comprised of various Lego elements.

According to Narragansett Pier Middle School Enrichment Teacher and Robotics Program Director Vanessa Miller, the Lego League presents students with various challenges that help them to develop lifelong skills, including a theme-based research project, a Core Values Challenge, and the Robot Design. This year, Miller said, the research project was based on learning strategies.

"Students research how they learn and try and find a way for a specific group to learn better. Our teams studied how autism, dyslexia, and sleep deprivation affect learning and one team came up with a better way for kids with learning difficulties to learn sports skills."

Miller said that among the many challenges of the work, the Core Values Challenge is the most important.

"Students must learn to work together as a team to come up with solutions to a problem that is put in front of them with no prior knowledge of what it is," Miller explained. "They need to learn how to listen to each other, advocate for themselves, and ultimately come to a consensus of a plan. The robot is new for many of our stu-

*"Students research how they learn and try and find a way for a specific group to learn better. Our teams studied how autism, dyslexia, and sleep deprivation affect learning and one team came up with a better way for kids with learning difficulties to learn sports skills."*

-Vanessa Miller  
Narragansett Pier Middle School

LEGOS, page 3-A

## Local experts address Resilient Rhode Island Act

Emphasizes importance of public education regarding climate change

N KIRBY  
JAMESTOWN—  
ening, the com-  
to the public with  
growing concerns among Rhode  
Island municipalities and busi-  
nesses about dangers of climate  
change, as well as to help edu-  
cate the public with

massive damage from sea level  
rise."  
"From the town's perspec-  
tive, [addressing climate

ble to the impacts of sea level  
rise and increased storm activity,  
something that the Resilient  
Rhode Island Act is set up to do.



# Many NPMS students are new to Lego League

*LEGOS, from page one*

dents. Many have experience working with Legos at home, and using those familiar pieces helps with the planning process. Students also learn how to program, or code their robots to accomplish missions on the game board. For students who have experience with SCRATCH or similar programming software, the EV3 software is very similar. For students new to programming, this is definitely a challenge as learning coding is like learning a new language. Once they have the basic understanding of the parts, students become more independent in stringing together lists of commands."

Miller also said that the challenges allow students to understand the interconnectedness of subject areas in schools.

"Students who experience the Lego League understand that if they want to be an engineer, that they also have to master the research process, and they will have to present their research in order to gain grants for their projects. Most importantly, students gain the exposure to working as a team toward a common goal."

Above all else, Miller said, she hopes that her students enjoy the tournament and take away valuable knowledge and experience.

"With the exception of two or three students, this is the first time my students have experienced Lego League. They will be competing against teams with up to five years of experience. My goal for my students is to perform their best at the qualifier, which includes their presentation of research, their teamwork abilities, and the performance of the robot. I also hope that this experience will foster a lifetime interest in robotics, engineering, or programming for them."

The Qualifier Tournament is free and open to the public beginning at 12:30 p.m. An opening ceremony and team parade will be held at 1:00 p.m., with an introduction from District Superintendent Katherine Sipala before the robot game rounds 2 and 3 begin at 1:30 p.m. Ten teams are expected to advance to the State Championship being held at Roger William's University on Jan. 17.



PHOTOS BY KENDRA LOLIO  
Above: Narragansett Pier Middle School sixth grade students Jason Sweet, Calla Reardon, and Victoria Gauvin test their robots for the upcoming First Lego League Rhode Island Robotics Qualifying Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Narragansett Pier Middle School. Below: Sixth grader Riley Karoutsos programs a robot.



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Gift  
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A Variety  
of Aquarium  
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