

Online Monday, August 06, 2007

The Newport Daily News

(401) 849-3300



Pruitt Chiropractic
protecting wellness
88 EAST MAIN ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, RI

Newport, Rhode Island - America's First Resort

- [HOME](#)
- [LOCAL NEWS](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [CLASSIFIEDS](#)
- [OBITUARIES](#)
- [EDITORIAL](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [PHOTO GALLERY](#)
- [TOP ADS](#)
- [ABOUT US/FORMS](#)
- [SUBSCRIBER SERVICES](#)
- [BACK ISSUES](#)
- [LOCATOR MAP](#)
- [PLACE AN AD](#)

LOCAL NEWS HEADLINES

**\$568,000
Portsmouth**



401.578.9001

Call Now for details
401-847-6200

Rolling Green Villoges

July Upstairs Restaurant
Dinning Specials
\$5 Martinis every Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
night for the Ladies!

BizRate™

- [Compare Online](#)
- [Plasma TVs](#)
- [Dvd Players](#)
- [Digital Camcorders](#)
- [Nokia Cell Phones](#)
- [Laptop Computers](#)

Seafaring program puts teens to the test

By Christine McCall/Daily News staff

NEWPORT - While some of their peers were at summer camp or playing video games, a group of 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds from Middletown raised sails and charted ocean waters last week aboard the Providence, the official Tall Ship of Rhode Island.

"They'll never forget it," said Peter Mello, director of the Providence Maritime Heritage Foundation. "We wanted to put them into a new situation where they could understand teamwork and leadership."

The foundation launched the new sailing program after being selected as a recipient of the first competitive sub-grants under the American Sail Training Association's Tall Ship Youth Adventure Program. The foundation received \$25,000.

The crew of the sloop Providence taught local students the basics of sailing; two Middletown teachers also accompanied the students throughout the week.

Chris Shaw, 25, of Boston, the ship's first mate, was responsible for teaching the teens sailing basics. Shaw said he saw a dramatic difference in the youths' attitudes from start to finish.

"The first day they were bored, because we were giving them basic instructions and information," Shaw said. "By the end, they had the time of their lives. They showed their parents what they learned and they developed leadership positions."

Each morning, the teenagers were taken by bus to Fort Adams State Park. The day's sail typically began about 9 a.m. and ended about 3 p.m. Their duties included watches, washing the decks and getting the lines and sails ready. Each day, the group took on more responsibility as the students' knowledge progressed.

There also was an overnight sail in which six of the teens took part. They helped cook and clean and also took turns standing watch.



Anthony Cox, 13, of Middletown talks with his grandfather, Steve Forand of Portsmouth, about his experiences last week in the Youth Adventure Program aboard the Tall Ship Providence. (David Hansen/Daily News staff)



Prudential Prime Properties
136 West Main Road, Middletown RI
401.849.2800

New to Providence!



SUMMERFEST PROVIDENCE
August 18&19
At Providence Piers



AFFORDABLE KITCHENS & BATHS and CABINETRY

Post Jobs Locally
\$25/ for Employers



Summer Jobs
in Rhode Island
www.SummerJobsRI.com

Though the program is designed to provide a new and fun experience for the teenagers, not all of it was fun and games.

Bianca Pine, 13, said that overall, "It's a good experience and it's a lot of fun." However, sailing a ship is no easy task. Pine said her least favorite part was learning how to use the ropes, because it was hard work and gave her blisters.

Her mother, Erica Pollitt of Middletown, said she was proud of her daughter's accomplishments. Pollitt accompanied her daughter and the rest of the crew Friday afternoon on their final sail, for which family members were invited aboard.

"It's taught her a little discipline and about working together," Pollitt said. "With all the blisters she's had this week, I don't think I could ever do it."

Dylan Aguiar, 13, said that he also learned that sailing is hard. "You have to do a lot of work, from cleaning the deck, scrubbing and hoisting the sails," he said.

"The best (part of the sailing experience) was that I got to hang out with my friends."

Initially, Aguiar said he was not excited about taking part in the program, but now says he would recommend it to others. "I tried it and I liked it," he said. In fact, he said he enjoyed his experience so much that he decided to participate in next week's advanced training program as well.

Last week's program concluded with a small graduation ceremony during which the teens received certificates.

A few of the teens will participate in the second week of the program, which began today.

The ASTA program is supported by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program of the federal Department of Justice.

The Middletown Police Department and Middletown School Department also helped organize the program.

[Email this story](#) | [Print this story](#) | [Return to news index](#)

[[Home](#)] [[Local News](#)] [[Sports](#)] [[Business](#)] [[Obituaries](#)] [[Editorial](#)] [[Election](#)] [[Subscribe](#)]
[[Classifieds](#)] [[Place an Ad](#)] [[Back Issues](#)] [[Real Estate Map](#)] [[About Us](#)] [[Contact Us](#)]
[[Finance News](#)] [[World News](#)] [[Health](#)]

© 2001 - 2007. The Newport Daily News. All Rights Reserved.