

What do some dads want for Father's Day, June 16: You might be surprised! Read page 2.



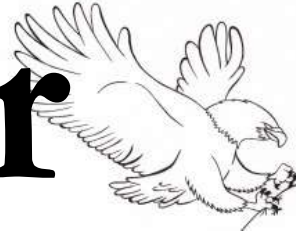
Greek Festival brings together families and the community. Read page 5.



Spring sports excel; softball senior earns 101 strike outs. Read page 8.



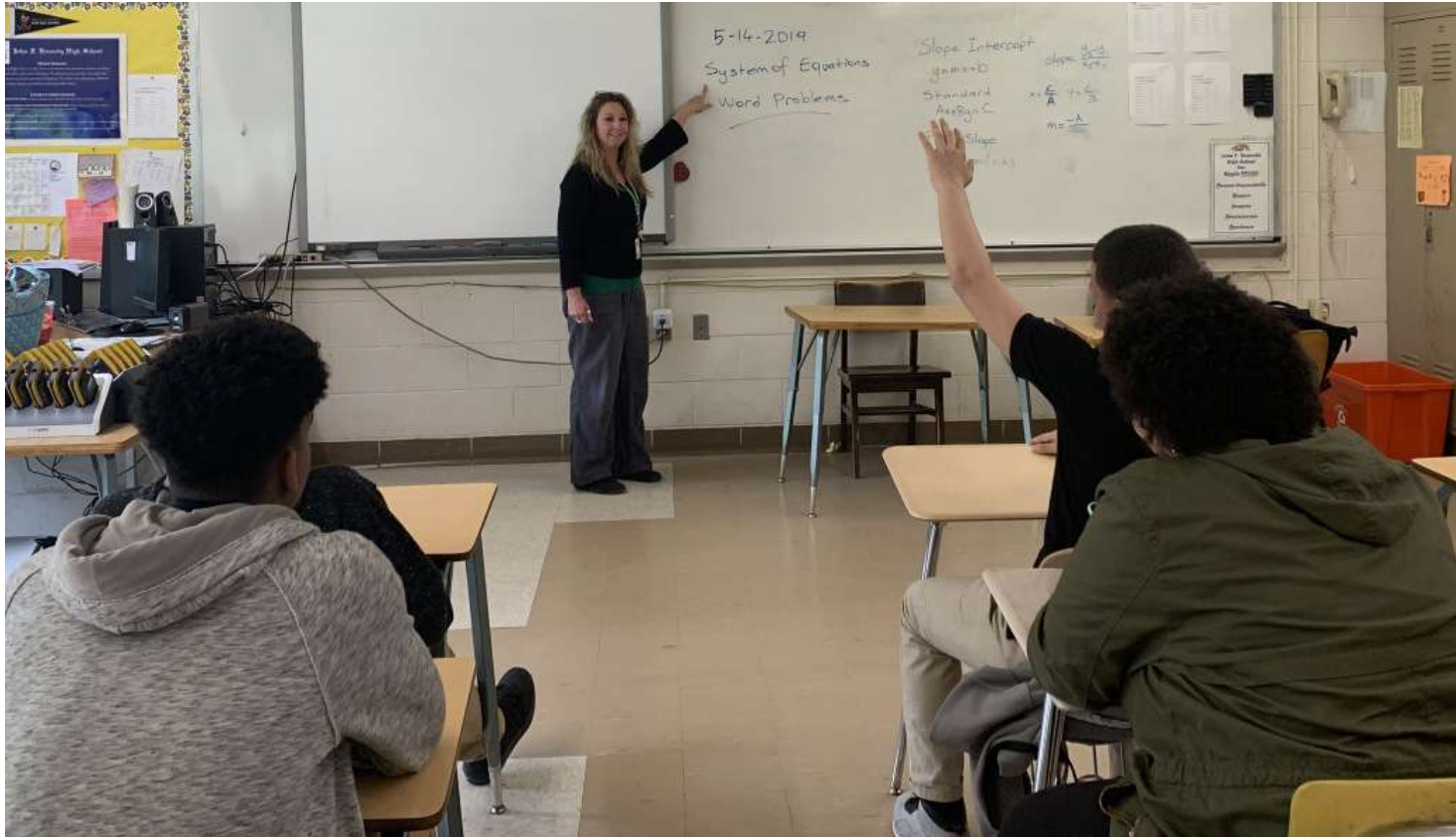
# The Eagle Flyer



June 2019  
Kennedy High School  
422 Highland Avenue  
Waterbury, Conn. 06708  
Volume IX, Issue X

## Original goal: waitress Now: Teacher of the Year

### Dr. Gagne finds inspiration while subbing for culinary arts class



**LEADER OF THE PACK** Special education teacher Dr. Gagne (seen in close up photo below), who has been at Kennedy for 16 years, teaches during fifth period in room 109 Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Gagne was named Kennedy's 2019 Teacher of the Year. Photo above by L. Veliju/staff; photo below courtesy of Dr. Gagne

*Special education teacher with 16 years at KHS wants her students to "follow their dreams and be kind"*

By Alyssa Bisram  
Staff Writer

"I never thought I'd be working as a teacher," said Kennedy's 2019 Teacher of the Year.

Special education teacher Dr. Melissa Gagne found out she was chosen as Teacher of the Year after Principal Mr. Johnston told her the news Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

"Each year Waterbury Public Schools have the opportunity to select one teacher to serve as its school-level Teacher of the Year," according to [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us), the official site of the Waterbury Public Schools' district. "Each school level Teacher of the Year is then eligible to be considered for the district wide Teacher of the Year program. The district wide Waterbury Teacher of the Year is then eligible to compete for the Connecticut State Teacher of the Year award."

One has to be nominated to become a school-level Teacher of the Year, and then "the principal will choose the ONE building winner," according

to the website [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us).

Gagne knows who she was nominated by. "The person that nominated me told me, but I don't want to say," said Gagne.

According to the selection process on [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us), "the teacher selected should be exemplary in the classroom but also someone who goes above and beyond the basic requirements of teaching," and Gagne's students have certainly vouched for her.

"She's an amazing teacher," said Skylin Quiñones, a senior in Gagne's 5th period class. "She has a great attitude coming into school; very friendly, forgiving, confident, and reassuring. Everyone values her."

"She's very dedicated to what she does and she never gives up on anybody," said Quiñones. "She's a very hard worker, too."

According to senior Charimar Rivera, Gagne

is the Teacher of the Year because of "the work she put in."

"She's a great person" said Rivera. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be graduating."

Gagne has worked at Kennedy for 16 years, and she taught in Bridgeport and at W. F. Kaynor Technical High School before that. However, she didn't always want to be a teacher.

"No, I just wanted to be a waitress," said Gagne. But, "when I was at Kaynor as a sub for culinary arts, I had a group of special ed. students and we made pasta. When we were done and they ate it, they were just so happy... that's when I knew I wanted to become a teacher."

Gagne shared that some of her favorite things about working at Kennedy are "working with the teachers and paraprofessionals, concessions for basketball games," and the field trips to

Holiday Hill, a 200-acre resort on the Cheshire/Prospect town line that hosts company picnics, student trips, and family events.

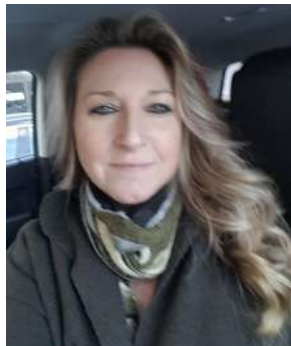
Some challenges she's faced include "discipline, modifying content for differentiation... keeping them engaged is tough," said Gagne, in addition to "dealing with dress code." As a teacher, she has learned "to keep my cool no matter what happens."

Gagne is also responsible for Kennedy's community garden, located on an inner courtyard on school grounds, which is "a hands-on garden for special education students to learn how to plan, cultivate and grow their own food," she said.

According to [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us), "Each school Teacher of the Year will receive a certificate at a recognition ceremony in June (date to be announced)."

"I love my job," said Gagne, who wants her students to "follow their dreams and be kind."

Update: Gagne was recognized at a ceremony Wednesday, May 29 at Crosby High School.



## For first time in history, June 13 graduation takes place at Palace Theater

By Leylah Veliju  
Staff Writer

*Principal admits being "torn" for new 8 p.m. ceremony since Kennedy is "home"*

City public high school seniors, including Kennedy's approximately 270 seniors, will graduate at the Palace Theater in downtown Waterbury, Conn. either Thursday, June 13 or Friday, June 14, 2019 instead of their respective school's building at the suggestion of Central Office education officials, so how do seniors feel about this change?

"It's exciting and different since it's the first year we're having it there," said senior Amber Ferazzi.

Shying away from tradition, Kennedy students are excited about

receiving more tickets for graduation since the Palace is a large space, as well as intrigued by the change of venue.

"A change of space is always nice," said senior Jydia Davis.

With approximately 265 to 270 seniors graduating, according to assistant principal Mr. Gwiazdoski as of May 21, if graduation were in the auditorium, students would receive only two tickets with a raffle for a possible third, whereas at the Palace, five tickets will be given to each senior for the Thursday, June 13 graduation, according to principal Mr. Johnston.

"The more tickets, the better," said senior Xavier Ramirez.

With graduation starting at 8 p.m. and ending at approximately 10 p.m., at least one student felt it was late.

"I don't like that it's at 8 because I want to get it over with," said senior Janivelys Gutierrez.

Other schools' graduations are set for 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. June 13, with more schools graduating the following day, June 14, which is the last official day of school, according to the Waterbury Public Schools' calendar.

With the year coming to an end, the

2019 class bids their farewell to a place they called home for four years, which makes the move bittersweet.

Johnston said it was approximately early March when he received a phone call from an assistant superintendent asking his opinion about moving graduation from Kennedy to the Palace.

"I was torn. This is home," said Johnston, explaining how the opportunity to offer students more tickets so that family and friends could celebrate their graduation was enticing. "That was too good to pass up."



Illustration by Jazmin Estrella/artistic director



# Flag Day June 14 marks Army's birthday

By Leylah Veliju, Marliana O'Neill  
Staff Writers

*Flag goes through 26 updates since 1777*

People across the United States celebrate Flag Day each year to commemorate the flag's official adoption, and in 2019 it falls on the last day of school Friday, June 14.

"The flag is one symbol of the nation," said history teacher, Mr. Sarlo.

Flag Day in the United States was built upon flag week. These days, people can reflect on the

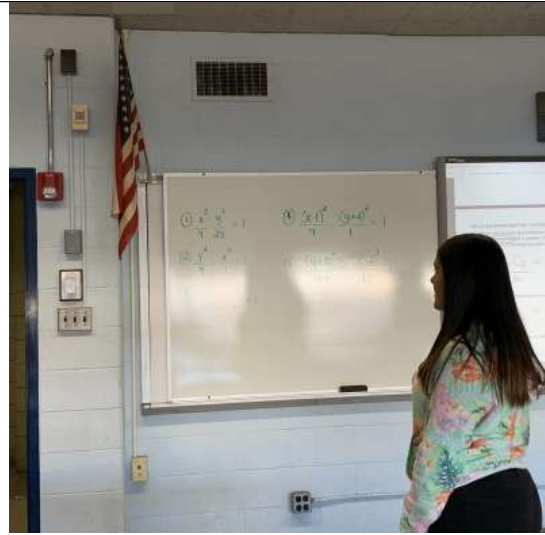
nation's freedom. Coincidentally Flag Day falls on the birthday of the United States Army, according to timeanddate.com, a site that explains various historical dates.

"I'm happy I have freedom my parents didn't have when they were my age," said senior Joni Pasholli.

Since 1777, the American Flag was updated 26 times until 1959

when 17-year-old Robert Heft of Ohio designed the 50 star flag, then President Eisenhower ordered it as an official flag August 21, 1959, according to pbs.org, an educational website.

"A flag is not just a symbol, but a way for a country to portray itself to the rest of the world," according to United-states-flag.com, a site to purchase flags.



**PLEDGING THE FLAG** Senior Davielys Rivera pledges her allegiance to the flag during morning announcements in May 2019. This year Flag Day, Friday, June 14, falls on the last official day of school. Seniors will graduate the evening before in the Palace Theater at 8 p.m.

Photo by L. Veliju and M. O'Neill/staff



# Father's Day Sunday, June 16 leads some to want 'time'

By Amelis Evangelista  
Staff Writer

*Celebrate 'role' of father as well as that special person in your life*

**COMMENTARY**

A special day for special dads. Sunday, June 16, 2019 teachers and staff who are dads will celebrate their Father's Day in individual, ideal ways they like while some remember what the day is meant to recognize.

"Father's Day is a day not only to celebrate dad as a person but his role as a father," according to taza.com, a website with blogs.

**EXPLORING** History teacher Mr. Turek is seen here with his son Sam, age 3, during spring break April 20, 2019 in Germany.

Photo courtesy of M. Turek

Mother's Day usually gets all the credit for mothers, but fathers do just as much. On Father's Day society should really recognize everything they do, so what do some dads actually want that day?

"Just time with the family," said guidance counselor Mr. Poulter, a father of a 2 1/2 year old son.

A fortune does not need to be spent to please fathers. A simple quiet day with the family is just as special to fathers as gifts or the phrase 'thank you' for being there for me.

"Maybe these presents are a way of say-

ing thank you: for the every day instructions for the nudge towards adulthood for just being there," according to writer Michael Gold on the NYtimes.com newspaper website.

If you would like to give your father a nice present that would be very appreciated but as the saying goes, it's the thought that counts plus the fact you take time to think about and celebrate them. So how would other dads like to spend the day?

"Doing whatever I please; a long restful day off," said Mr. Turek, a Grade 9 history teacher and father of a 3-year-old son.

# Counteract climate change by keeping conversation going

By Sasha Franco  
Correspondent

*Use cardboard or metal rather than styrofoam trays, put solar panels on roof*

How can schools help their environment and prevent climate change? Climate change is harming the Earth and here are some ways Kennedy can prevent it.

"We can't sugar coat things, we're going to go extinct," said Elizabeth Saint Juste, a sophomore.

Some things Kennedy can do are recycle as much as possible and instead of using styrofoam trays, use cardboard or metal trays in the cafe.

"They can recycle much more. Be more diligent about it. Get rid of styrofoam and use cardboard (trays, or) decomposable styrofoam," said Mr. Bernabe, a science teacher. "We can all use energy efficient cars. (Put) solar panels on top of the (school) roof."

One student and teacher said climate change should be taught in schools. Have classes that focus on climate change, and conduct experiments.

"(Have) programs for agriculture. Make environmental classes mandatory," said Mariliz Miranda, a sophomore.

"We should do more experiments with solar cells and fuel cells," said Bernabe.

Temperatures have risen 1.9 degrees Fahrenheit since 1880, and sea levels have risen 3.3 millimeters per year, according to climate.nasa.gov, a site that provides "clear explanations for the big questions in climate science." Scientists have said that society has

around a decade before irreversible change occurs.

"We're getting to a point where climate change is irreversible," said Saint Juste.

Trees are a good way to reduce carbon dioxide using photosynthesis. They can also reduce temperatures, lessen energy usage and remove air pollutants like chemicals from factories.

"Planting new trees will quickly reduce the rate of emission of gases," according to earthclipse.com, a site "for all information related to environment, global warming, climate change, renewable energy, geography, geology, and astronomy."

"Temperatures are going to keep rising year by year. (From) personal experience (the) environment is much warmer," said Mr. Walker, a science teacher.

Could one idea be just to keep the conversation going about climate change?



Photo by T. Lopez/staff

"It's an issue that's very political, teachers don't like to get into it. I think they should and shouldn't avoid it," said Walker.



**CONSERVATION** As this illustration (above) by Mayra Lovos shows, Earth Day should be celebrated every day, and not just in April. Another suggestion by staff to counteract climate change was to eliminate lunchtime styrofoam trays (top photo) in favor of metal or other materials that can be recycled.

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## What did you learn this school year that you will take with you?

By Toni Lopez, Irienis Perez  
Sports Editor, Staff Writer



*"Loss. Just because you stop and give up you keep moving forward and get back up again."*  
Jennifer Sadlowski, junior



*"To have patience and to study."*  
Damar Byrd, freshman



*"Stay by myself."*  
Roshell Walters, sophomore



*"Pay attention. Be a hardworking student."*  
Enijah Armstrong, freshman



*"I can relate to you guys and help you learn and learn from the students at Kennedy also."*  
Ms. Aubrinne Losty, Kennedy graduate and substitute



*"Stick to yourself."*  
William J. Martinez, sophomore

## Decolonization project causes reflection for freshmen

By Michael Albino  
Staff Writer

*World History class studies impact of European colonization on Africa*

The history of the past always relates to today.

Freshmen in Mrs. Joyce's World History SOAR class learned just this

by creating projects about the gradual decolonization of Africa from European colonial powers and its effects today through selected nations dealing with decolonization during May 2019.

"It's trying to show us how (Europe) affected (Africa) by influencing its future and how they are today," said Reis Muccino, who works with Joyce period two.

The project revolved around an assigned nation that experienced decolonization, and

how the nation was like under colonial rule versus modern day.

"The project is about explaining certain events that occurred in five different African countries," said Siya Patel, a student in Joyce's period two class. "I was assigned to the nation Algeria. For example, (we'd solve) how did Algeria gain independence from France?"

The project also allowed students to personally reflect on the moral implications of colonialism, and the struggle for decolonization.

"I don't think that it's right to just go in and take over a country to colonize it," said Liliana Kollar, a student in Joyce's period one class. "These

(countries were) trying to get their freedom and independence back. I disagree with colonization and agree with decolonization."

Another student, William Misset, who is also in Joyce's period one class, reflected on the project.

"It should not have happened," said Misset, reflecting upon European oppression of the African majority during the time. "It was a cruel and horrible way to get people to work."

But there was a mutual consensus among many students on the slow pace of decolonization and the repression of natives.

"It should have never happened in the beginning," said Misset.



**GROUP WORK** Freshmen SOAR students from left, Isabella Santiago, Athalia Adouko and Marjah Sanon present their decolonization group project during second period Thursday, May 16, 2019. A project regarding Kenya is displayed on a posterboard (see far left photo).

Photos by M. Albino/staff

## Some students unsure of real meaning, details behind DDay (June 6)

By Destiny Hollister  
Staff Writer

*Invasion of Normandy seems lost on present generation who remain in dark regarding significance*

A massive shift in history was made on D-Day (known as the Invasion of Normandy), a day for Americans to remember all soldiers who landed on Normandy's beaches June 6, 1944; while some people are out at museums, memorials or ceremonies, others don't recognize the observance that marks a large invasion or even know much about this historical event in history.

D-Day during World War II started a breakout at 6:30 a.m. June 6, 1944, as American, British and Canadian troops landed on Normandy's beaches in an attempt to liberate France and North West Europe from the Nazis. By the end, more than 10,000 Allied soldiers (out of 156,000) ended up injured, killed or missing, according to

www.american-historama.org, a website with information about dates in U.S. history.

D-Day left a grand impact on France and North West Europe's liberation; however, not all people know about its actual significance.

"I don't know anything about D-Day; I'm not spoken to about it," said freshman Diana Sooknauth.

D-Day isn't a

federal holiday nor is it a day off from school, so many don't realize it is even a thing unless actually spoken to about it.



MSNBC

regarding this profound day in history, this writer noticed many people don't know the true background to the observance marking the largest land and water invasion in all of history. While a handful of people did not understand the concept of D-Day, some have their own understanding of what the day means.

"The thing about World War II? I know it was named after Dwight Eisenhower because he was like the Chief General operating the whole thing," said Athalia Adouko, a freshman.

**HISTORY LESSON** This visual from MSNBC shows the various American, British and Canadian divisions involved in the Invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944.

"I think it's the day when all the countries Hitler ruled were freed," said Marjah Sanon, another freshman.

After attempting to interview people



## Staff Editorial

### Freedom looms but still celebrate flags, fathers plus LGBTQIA+ Month

Sun's out, sports are practically over, and it's about time classes got to the end of their curriculums. These last few weeks of school are the most anticipated.

Freshmen are excited they made it through their first year. Sophomores are excited to be upperclassmen. Juniors are excited for their final year in high school. Lastly, of course, the seniors are prepared and excited to complete this chapter in their lives and move on to the next. Many seniors have mixed emotions about the school year coming to an end, but either way it is almost here.

Speaking of seniors' next chapter, data shows that "with more than 135,000 applications for freshman and transfer admission for fall 2019, UCLA remains the top choice in the country for students and their families," according to Ricardo Vazquez, a writer for UCLA's Newsroom. Regardless, whether Kennedy's seniors are headed far away or are staying close to home after graduation, they will certainly be missed.

Still, before the next school year begins (Monday, August 26 according to the Waterbury Public Schools calendar), the summer awaits. June is the month that transitions us into this heat-filled oasis of freedom that everyone has been waiting for these past nine months.

However, heat isn't the only thing June is recognized for. Flag Day (Friday, June 14) and Father's Day (Sunday, June 16) occur in June. Take these days to appreciate where you come from by celebrating your home culture or surprising your father with a gift. June is also National LGBTQIA+ Month, a time when "pride festivals and parades are a celebration of the progress the LGBTQ community has made," according to the Human Rights Campaign Organization, advocates and educators for the LGBTQIA+ community. Overall, June is a month of positivity and celebration of each other as well as the warm weather.

Finally, as *The Eagle Flyer's* 2018-19 production year comes to a close, our staff would like to thank any and everyone who contributed with advertisements, photos, poems, or simply read us monthly. We can't wait to continue sharing Kennedy's, and the community's, adventures with you next school year!

*"What we call the beginning is often the end.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from."*

~T.S. Eliot

### Climate change impacts everyone

By Joleen Once  
Staff Writer

*Learn about severe consequences*

#### COMMENTARY

"We are the first generation that can put an end to poverty and we are the last generation that can put an end to climate change, so we (must) address climate change," said Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, May 28, 2015.

Climate change has been a controversial topic in our world for many years but we have been starting to see its effects daily and we will continue to see them more often if we do not start talking about what is happening in our society.

Climate change is the long-term alteration of temperature and normal weather patterns in a place. This could refer to a particular location or the planet as a whole. Climate change is occurring worldwide as a result of global warming.

Global warming is an increase in the planet's overall temperature due to the burning of fossil fuels, such as natural gas, oil, and coal. Burning these materials releases certain gases into Earth's atmosphere.

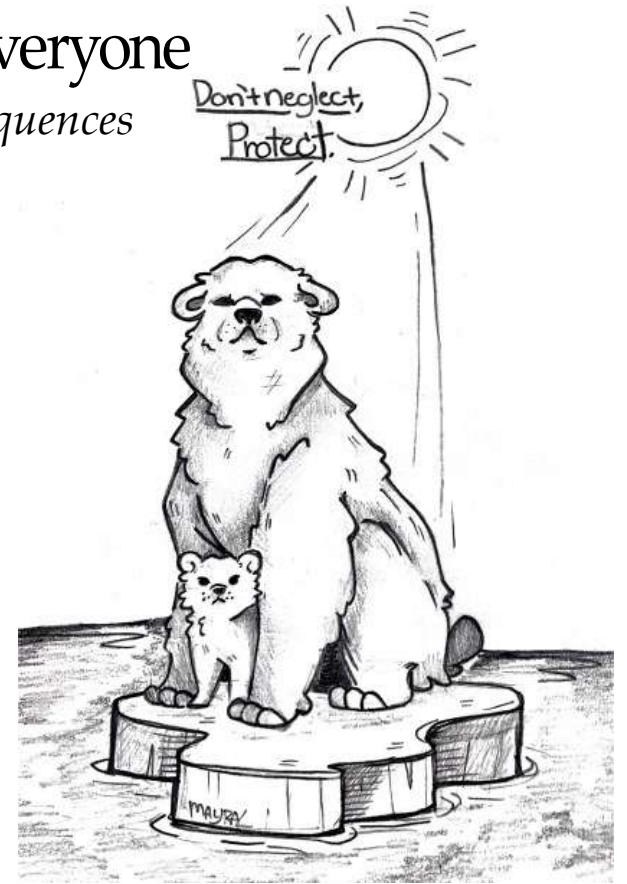
These gases trap the heat from the Sun's rays inside the atmosphere, causing Earth's average temperature to rise, according to national

geographic.org, a website about science, geography, history, and world cultures.

Climate change is causing sea levels to rise at an alarming rate across the globe. Nine trillion tons of ice had been lost in Greenland in the past century and the rate of loss has increased significantly over the years. All of the melted ice has risen the sea level an entire inch in the last hundred years and will only continue. By the year 2100, sea levels are projected to rise one to four feet. Places like Isle de Jean Charles have lost 90 percent of its land due to sea levels rising. Residents and wildlife have been forcibly evacuated by the consequences of our actions and ignorance of the problem.

"Of the Arctic sea ice, 75 percent has been lost in the past 30 years. Last year saw sea-ice levels plummet to the second-lowest since records began," according to an article published June 7, 2012 in *Beneath the Observer*, a Greenpeace-sourced list of "chilling" facts about the Arctic.

Climate change causes very unpredictable weather patterns that, unfortunately, we have experienced firsthand. Hurricane Harvey



and Hurricane Maria have severely impacted our country and together cost more than \$250 billion in damage. Hurricane Maria resulted in the death of 3,057 individuals and Hurricane Harvey had 68 casualties, according to news reports and *cnn.com*, another factual news source.

Stronger and lengthier storms will continue to rise in frequency. These include hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons, blizzards, and heat waves. All of these have been known to lead to mass

land destruction and cause human deaths. Heat waves are the beginnings of droughts and wildfires which rampaged the West Coast in late 2018, according to *The New York Times*, a global news site, as of Nov. 16, 2018. Smog was left behind in parts of California causing extremely poor air quality.

We are the only ones who can truly try to stop the irreversible damage we are causing to the planet that we call home. Soon, all of us will be homeless.

### Mentors offer youth chance for opportunities

By Danny Ruiz  
Staff Writer

*Whether teachers, coaches or parents, appreciate their guidance*

#### COMMENTARY

My brother once told me never to have, or look up to, a role model because role models can fail you, leaving you disappointed in the process. Instead, adopt certain aspects of an admirable individual's character. In other words, if I liked LeBron I should adopt his versatility and if I admired Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I should adopt his speaking abilities and determination.

I've come to think that, in imparting this wisdom upon me, my brother was trying to encourage me to be the best of both worlds and in doing so, rise above the shadows of both LeBron and M.L.K., in turn, fostering and creating an entirely new individual akin to neither.

So I was instead gifted with a mentor by the name of Travis. When I met Travis he was the teen director at The Boys and Girls Club Of Greater Waterbury and had recently graduated from the University of Connecticut (UConn) and was obviously a proud alumni judging by the Huskies hoodie he often wore. Not long after my arrival, I began to sit near his desk. When I wasn't in the teen room (computer room) with my friends, I'd be sitting at his desk doing my homework, conversing, reading, or going against him in chess, a game in which I beat him only once.

As time progressed, my initial hesitation towards the program as a whole had worn off, and I began to embrace the environment. Travis, who by this point, would regularly ask about my grades, my day and whether I'd done my homework while also tolerating my constant ravaging of his office drawers in search for supposedly "hidden snacks," had become more of a friend. It wasn't long until he started signing me up for opportunities--without my permission--and encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone and to chase my goals with drive and determination. There wasn't a day when he wouldn't push me to be better, not better than the next person in line but instead a better version of myself. He instilled within me the mentality of a leader and charged me with being a role model rather a people pleaser.

Enough of that, here's something I wrote in 2016 describing my experience with Travis that will provide better

insight (don't mind the grammatical errors):

"Out of the many staff the Boys and Girls Club Of Greater Waterbury consist of few have taken the time to influence me the way they have. One out of the so few staff members that have changed my life is Travis, my teen coordinator. He has taken countless hours out of his life to not only to help me but form a friendship most wouldn't care for. It is because of him and many other factors previously listed that I have progressed, changed and developed the way I have. He has encouraged me to take risks I usually wouldn't take. Encouraged me to open my mind in ways I thought weren't possible. Most importantly he took the time to teach me how to be a better human. Not to mention he was a friend when I needed one the most. I credit a lot of my development to his influence in my life." -Danny Ruiz (2016) Youth Of The Year Essay

Nonetheless, others have been blessed with the gift of having a mentor whether it is a teacher, a father or a coach.

"My father, he guided me in the right path, gave me good advice, facilitated my growth, and made sure I was well," said Emmanuel Yankson, a sophomore.

In addition, others have been blessed, similarly, with having both a mentor and a mother

"I never really had a mentor, but my mom has always been there for me; she always made sure I would read a book every night, she'd make sure I'd study, and she'd always ensure my studies came first," said Aimee Reinozo, a sophomore.

To sum everything up, I hope we've all been fortunate enough to have had a mentor or that we can at least agree on how important one is. Always keep in mind there are those less fortunate enough to not have had a mentor or even a role model, someone to look up to for guidance.

But remember a mentor can be anyone: a parent, a teacher, a coach, or a friend and that they are valuable and should be appreciated and that we, too, must aim to one day also be that person--that mentor--to whoever needs it most, about whom a student will write in the newspaper some day.



## The Eagle Flyer

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# Greek Festival brings people together

By Jessinya Severino, Evi Duro  
Staff Writers

*Annual event near school draws students, staff*

Ya-sou!

This popular phrase you hear around the Greek Festival means ‘cheers.’ The annual Greek Festival, just around the corner from Kennedy, offered food and entertainment to its customers and volunteers, many of whom are students or staff members, during the rain of Mother’s Day weekend Thursday, May 9 through Sunday, May 12, 2019 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, on 937 Chase Parkway in Waterbury.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox church’s festival is a place where people from all over the community can get together and make memories they’ll never forget.

“Why do I volunteer here? Because I love my church. We are like a big huge family. It’s a huge cause and we love being here with each other,” said Georgia Lacman, a volunteer at the Greek Festival.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church comes together as a family annually to make other families happy and celebrate their traditions with them.

“The festival is what I look forward to every year. It brings my family together to have a fun time and eat great food,” said William Stas, a customer and Thomaston resident.

There are so many different people coming together to enjoy activities at the festival. There are various types of food to select from, so what were some favorite foods in 2019?

“Oh my goodness. That is so hard to pick. I’d probably would have to say the pastitsio dinner, but every single thing is absolutely delicious and all homemade here,” said Lacman.

Besides the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, the food and

entertainment are an added bonus. In fact, this is the Greek Festival’s 47th year sharing their Greek food, music and shops since they started it in 1972.

“There are so many different things I could buy like special jewelry and handmade soaps that smell divine,” said Carly Ballance, a customer and Thomaston resident.

Customers could buy all types of items at the festival, from foods to clothes, from prize baskets to lamps, and even plants.

“I like the festival because of the raffles, the baklava and the atmosphere of it all,” said Edwin Ramos, a customer from Waterbury

The Greek Festival volunteers are very friendly and make sure their customers enjoy their time; even the volunteers said they enjoy themselves.

“My favorite area to volunteer at is, of course, the flowers and the gift baskets. This is where I vend all these years,” said Lacman.

Although, the festival ended May 12, if you want to have a good time, mark your calendars for next year’s festival. There’s much more to it than just eating and drinking: it’s a great place to experience a new culture and try different things.

“As I eat my food, I sit here and listen to the Greek music playing and get to watch the kids dance



with their families. It is the best of times even on a rainy day,” said Penney Donofrio, a customer and Thomaston resident.



**MOTHER’S DAY WEEKEND**

Food featured at the Greek Festival included (photo far left) loukamades and gyros. Under the large tent (right photo), customers stayed dry despite the rainy weather May 9-12, 2019. Friends and families like (top right photo) Heather Lorancitis, Troy Ballance, age 6, and Cole Ballance, age 8, enjoyed the food, festivities and even face painting.



**FLORALS, FACE PAINTING, AND MORE**

Troy Ballance (photo directly above), age 6, gets his face painted at the annual Greek Festival in Waterbury, right around the corner from Kennedy. Flowers (left photo) are among some of the many diverse items sold during the festival.

All photos by J. Severino/staff

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# Upward Bound holds screening of Hate U Give for summer participants

By Natalie Dames  
Staff Writer

Students discuss film, book: realization hits they feel unsafe everywhere

**The Hate U Give:** This groundbreaking book had students of Upward Bound's 2018 summer program captivated all summer long and, if you went to the six-week program, you were invited to a recent special screening of *The Hate U Give* movie: 18 students viewed the film Friday, May 3 2019 starting at 8:45 a.m. at Naugatuck Valley's Community College of Health and Sciences lecture hall.

Before watching the movie, juniors Nevaeh Patrick and Natansia Whyte believed the movie will lack detail.

"The movie will be different than the book because the book is always more detailed than the movie," said Patrick.

"I think the movie will have details taken out that are

important (to the book)," said Whyte

However, one junior, Katelyn Wright, disagreed.

"The movie (will) sum up what the book is," said Wright.

Is there a reason why books are perceived as better?

"Most movies do their thing in 1.5-3 hours. A book is edited and crafted, but the writer is still working within an unlimited time canvas. This condensing of books into movies leads to deleted parts from the book or abbreviation of developments within the book," according to BarnesandNobles.com, a site that sells books as well as provides book reviews.

So, once students actually saw the film, did it really live up to The Hate U Give's name?

"I would say it's a really good movie and (people) should go see it if they have the chance," said Bryan Acosta, a sophomore.

"I would recommend you watching the movie but read the book first because the book is better," said Joshua Rivera, a junior.

While some students and even the Upward Bound coordinator felt the book was better, they all shared a favorite part: arguably with this scene being the turning point of the movie.

"The best part of the movie was when Sekani (the young son) took the gun from his dad," said Acosta

"(A) great part was when her little brother (Sekani) picked up the gun and pointed it at King Lord because it embodied the reason why Angie Thomas named her book The Hate U Give," said Mr. Darrion Sprueill, coordinator of Upward Bound, who helped chaperone the May field trip.

He also mentioned "the best part of the movie was when Starr finally got on top of the car and got her voice (since) throughout the entire movie she was struggling to deal with this situation that was going on. She was living between two

worlds and couldn't seem to juggle it."

Sprueill was responsible for selecting the text for the summer 2018 program, so why did he pick this one?

"I chose the book because I thought it was relevant, modern and gave a fictional account of things that are very real in our world," said Sprueill, who also selected a work

by the same author-- Angie Thomas--for the 2019 summer program (called On The Come Up).

So why was the original book The Hate U Give named this?

"The Hate U Give takes its title and central philosophy from a concept espoused by (the late) Tupac Shakur: To the rapper, who had

'THUG LIFE' tattooed in capital letters on his torso, that phrase was an acronym for a vicious cycle of societal violence," according to Kyle Buchanan's Oct. 18, 2018 article on TheNewYorkTimes.com newspaper site. "'THUG LIFE,'" (George Tillman, Jr director of the movie) explained, actually stands for 'The Hate U Give Little Infants Effs Everybody.'"

After the movie was over, Upward Bound gave students a plentiful lunch selection of meatballs with pasta, salad, bread, and butter, along with water from LaBonne's, located in Watertown, Conn.

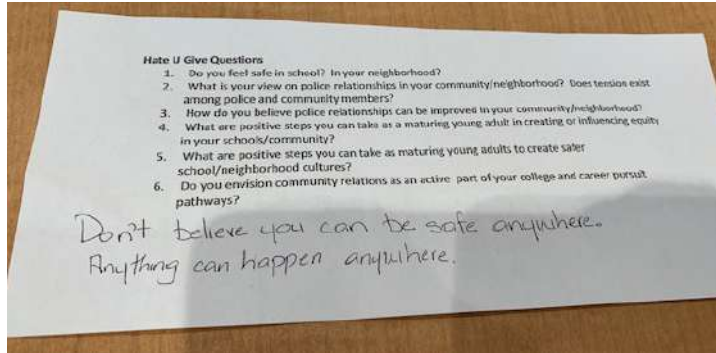
Once seated with your food at hand, you were given a series of six questions, like "What is your view on police relationships in your community/neighborhood?" "Does tension exist among police and community members?" plus "Do you feel safe in school? In your neighborhood?"

This discussion seemed to hit close to home with Kennedy students who agreed they came to realize they are not safe anywhere. Students wrote down these statements as a group: "Do not believe you can be safe any-

where. Anything can happen anywhere."

**EYE OPENING FILM** Upward Bound students who participated in the 2018 summer program viewed the film *The Hate U Give* based on the book (left photo) at Naugatuck Valley Community College Friday, May 3, 2019. During a lunch provided by LaBonne's, students engaged in a discussion and took notes (above photo).



Photos by N. Dames/staff



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# Johnson pioneers transgender equity

By Narlin Chimbo  
Staff Writer

Throwing the first brick that started the Stonewall riot, Marsha P. Johnson was a key activist on the front line of the queer liberation movement.

Johnson was a transgender black woman born in Elizabeth, New Jersey August 24, 1945 who died July 6, 1992. Johnson moved to Greenwich Village after high school. She was a \*sex work\*er and a drag queen as well as an active AIDS advocate.

\*Sex work is a willing form of labor which entails receiving money or goods in exchange for sexual services\*

"Without Marsha, there would've been a decelerated fight for our rights, especially for the transgender community," said Carlos Guzman, a junior in New Haven public schools who knew about Johnson previously.

In the early 1970s Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, another patron of the queer liberation movement, founded a radical political organization called STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) whose primary purpose was providing housing, food and more for queer homeless youth and sex workers.

However, there were some exceptions for who was eligible.

"STAR was for the street gay people. The street homeless people and anybody that needed help at the time. We (Marsha and I) were trying to

get away from the mafia's control at the bars," said Rivera, in a 1998 interview with Leslie Feinberg.

A particular bar Johnson and Rivera visited frequently was called The Stonewall Inn. Stonewall was utopia, a sanctuary, a place of refuge where people could express themselves openly and socialize with other queer folks. Meanwhile, the New York State Liquor Authority refused to issue a license to establishments of many LGBTQ+ bars. Operating without a proper license left places like Stonewall vulnerable to frequent



Marsha P. Johnson, image in online photo

police raids. Tony Lauria, the owner of The Stonewall Inn, built the Genovese monopoly on Christopher Street and bribed the New York's Sixth Police Precinct with monthly payments to turn a blind eye to what was going on inside.

Most of the folks who were associated with Johnson thought law enforcement failed sufficiently investigating the case involving her death. Police found her body in the Hudson River off the Christopher Street Pier and quickly ruled her death a suicide.

"Dead trannies were literally

Photo of the Stonewall Inn bar, taken from an online image



washing up on the street. I mean, lying there dead, no interest shown whatsoever about doing a damn thing about it," said a community activist, Chelsea Goodwin in an interview with Victoria Cruz in the Netflix documentary, *The Life and Death of*

*Marsha P. Johnson.*

In late 2018, a record number of "22 transgender people (were) killed," according to [www.hrc.com](http://www.hrc.com), the official Human Rights Campaign website and "18 cases remain unresolved," according to [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), the website for the Cable News Network.

"They (the police) just didn't care. They (the folks who were murdered) were trans. Outcasts, society didn't want them," Cruz said in the Netflix documentary, *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson.*

Throughout Greenwich Village, Johnson was known for being unapologetically herself in an environment that resented her being. The 'P' in her middle name stands for 'pay no mind.'

Now, Johnson is commemorated for being "one of the bravest women of this century," said Isis Ruiz, president of the Rainbow Diversity club at The University of Connecticut's (UConn) Waterbury branch.

For more information on Marsha P. Johnson, a new Netflix original was released in 2017 called *The Life and Death of Marsha P. Johnson.*



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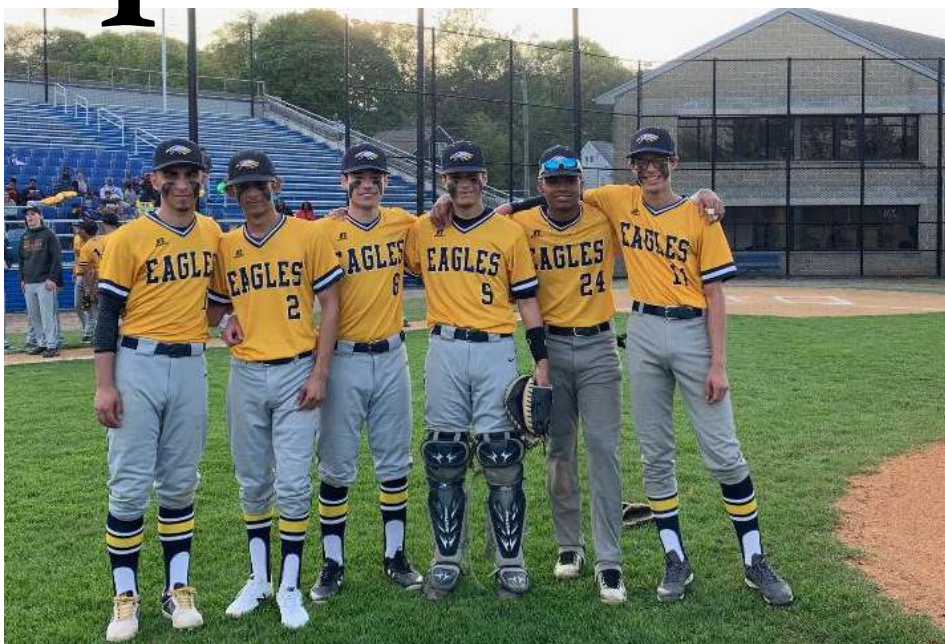


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**GROUNDBREAKING** Boys' baseball team seniors, from left to right, Anthony Quinones, Xavier Frias, Jake Desjardins, Angel Colon, Bryant Bonilla, and Jorhan Castellano made the state tournament for the first time in six years, playing in Farmington, Conn. Saturday May 25, 2019.



**MILESTONE** Senior Ashlei Sharkey (above right), pictured with softball coach Ms. Scialla, a math teacher, at this moment got her 101 strikeout Wednesday, May 16 in this game against Wilby High School at Municipal Stadium in Waterbury. Sharkey and her teammate, senior Shyan Perez (in photo below), were voted to the 2019 Brass Division city team.



**GOLF GROWTH** Sophomore Dainiaus Karmuza is one of the golf team members. "We showed a lot of growth through the season, great attitudes and most importantly, I'm looking forward to next season with them. If anyone sees this please sign up for the golf team next year," said Mr. Danaher, golf coach and wood shop teacher.



All photos compiled by T. Lopez/staff

**LADY EAGLES**  
The 2019 girls' tennis team members included senior Aliyah A., sophomore Maggie Calo, sophomore Angela Cipi, junior Bailey DiMasso, junior Aminda L., junior Alahaniss L., senior Ariana Padillo, sophomore Ariana R., sophomore Sara Way, junior Kaelyn Wright, sophomore Sophia Gaspard, freshman Genesis M., freshman Joleen Once, junior Martha R., sophomore, Aimee R., freshman Kiomarie S., freshman Isabella S., freshman Jessinya Severino, freshman Rosalind T., freshman Sarah T., freshman Lydia V., and junior Victoria Soto.

## Spring sports make strides Tennis captures city title

By Toni Lopez  
Sports Editor

**CITY CHAMPS** Joni Pasholli, the lone senior on the boys' tennis team, practices on the new courts behind school.

While the boys' tennis team had a young team with only one senior, and started the season wanting to connect with each other and make improvements, they ended up defeating all city high school teams to win the city title as of Thursday, May 23, 2019, as well as play in the state tournament.

"We beat Holy Cross, Crosby, Sacred Heart, and Wilby to win the title. As a senior it feels so good to finally win the title after Holy Cross held it for so long. It's the perfect way to end my year. The team has always been very close with each other win or lose, but everyone motivates each other causing us to win more games," said senior Joni Pasholli.

Reflecting back to the beginning of the season, a sophomore said the thought of

winning the city title would have brought great joy.

"I'd be overjoyed to hear our school could win," said Nathan Meglio.

As they reached their goals, it was time to keep up with their same mentalities toward every game.

"I stayed positive just by keeping my head up and forgetting about a loss, only (kept) focused on the games ahead," said sophomore Kevin Demiraj.

A junior learned that to gain more qualities is becoming a team player.

"What I gained as a team (member) is sportsmanship and charisma from other teammates," said junior Yasin Azizoglu.

The day before they were



to play in the 2019 state tournament three players shared their optimism for the future as well as the past season.

"I am really happy with the team and very proud (of how everyone put effort in one another)," said sophomore Redjan Cipi.

"(I am) proud of the team and (it) shows how much talent we have, yet we're so young," said Azizoglu.

This "puts us in a very successful (transition) for next year to have (a good mindset)," said Meglio.

## Outdoor track & field members keep breaking records

By Toni Lopez  
Sports Editor

Upon taking this team over as head coach two years ago, Mr. Nick O'Brien, and assistant coach, Ms. Katlyn Hagley, a special education teacher, have accumulated 16 school records broken in the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons.

Tariq Phillips came in second at States in the 100 meter with a time and school record of 10.95, plus came in first in the 200 meter, breaking a school record with a time of 22.08 and is now All State in the 200m.

Alex Brites also broke the 1600 meter record at States with a time of 4:36:35. Records broken this outdoor season are the girls' 4x400 meter with a time of 4:32.27 by Christina Capozzi, Rocio Torres, Vivian Bunker, and

Jordyn Wilson; the girls' 400 meter with a time of 1:02.57 by Jordyn Wilson; the girls' pole vault by Vivian Bunker with a height of 7 feet; the boys' 4x100 meter with a time of 44.52 by Elijah Nelson, Taj Thomas, Tyreke Scarlett, and Tariq Phillips; and the boys' 800 meter with a time of 2:02.70 by William Mahony

This is the progress that was carried on from the indoor track season where five records were broken:

Boys' 600 meter - Will Mahony

Boys' 3200 meter - Alex Brites

Boys' 4x200 meter and 4x400 meter - Taj Thomas, Will Mahony, Tyreke Scarlett, Tariq Phillips, as well as the Girls' 55 meter dash - Christina Capozzi.

**WINNER** Junior Christina Capozzi, below center, continues to break records and earn personal best times for outdoor track and field.

